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CITY

SPRING

SPECIAL

VOLUME V
MARCH - APRIL 2018

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*This project was completed before May 1, 2017.



TOWER B IS READY TO MOVE IN



Live Like It's

S

The poem “Ode to the West Wind” by the famous English Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley concludes with the line “O wind if winter comes, can spring be far behind”. No interpretation of this ode has possibly been as vivid as the message of 'reform' and 'change' that Shelley seemingly calls for. Indeed, the vagaries of winter or the dark and hard times always and surely make way for spring – a time for joy and happiness, a time for renewal and rejuvenation; a revolution of sorts!

With the chill of the winter behind us, it is now time to look forward to brighter and sunnier days. Spring marks the onset of all things wonderful that are to come, symbolising vivaciousness and a great zest for life.

Spring

In keeping with the spirit of Springtime, through this year's first issue of Meet The City, we urge you to put a 'spring' back into your step and make way for picture-perfect memories set against clear blue skies and vibrant blooms.

Through this issue of Meet The City, we invite you to discover life around you, as our earth magically transforms itself and animatedly comes alive in many hues!

ATUL CHORDIA

REVIEW

HELLO SPR

The background of the entire page is a photograph of three identical potted plants. Each plant has dark, variegated leaves and several white, bell-shaped flowers. They are in red, tapered pots and are mounted on a light-colored, textured wall. One plant is on the left, one is in the center, and one is on the right. The word 'ING' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

ING

Spring is upon us, in India. Clear blue skies, vibrant blooms, green shoots and leaves, and the gentle wind lovingly brushing against the yellow corn swaying in the fields; picture-perfect indeed. The snow will soon melt in the mighty Himalayas, making way for pleasant weather, while the sun's benevolent rays radiate down upon us. Wake up to the fragrance of aromatic coffee blossoms and watch apple orchards come full-bloom. Because, Spring has finally Sprung, transforming our land in many delightful ways!

Springtime is a time for renewal of growth and the beginning of something new and wonderful! In keeping with this sentiment, we at Meet The City invite you, dear reader, to be a part of our stories of rejuvenation and transformation.

Meet The City invites you to embrace the goodness of Spring and set the perfect tone for joyful and sunny days to come.



Co nten ts

MEET THE CITY - MARCH - APRIL 2018

Cover Story

Hello
Spring

Fashion

Versace
Spring Collection
2018

Travel

An Indian Spring



Art

Loving Vincent

In Store

The Pavillion

Reader's Corner

Gianni Versace

A Genius...An Icon...

My Brother

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Villa 2 Rear View with Private Pool.

All images shot on location.



Villa 3 Living Room in Sea Breeze Style.



Villa 2 Living Room in Vintage Style.



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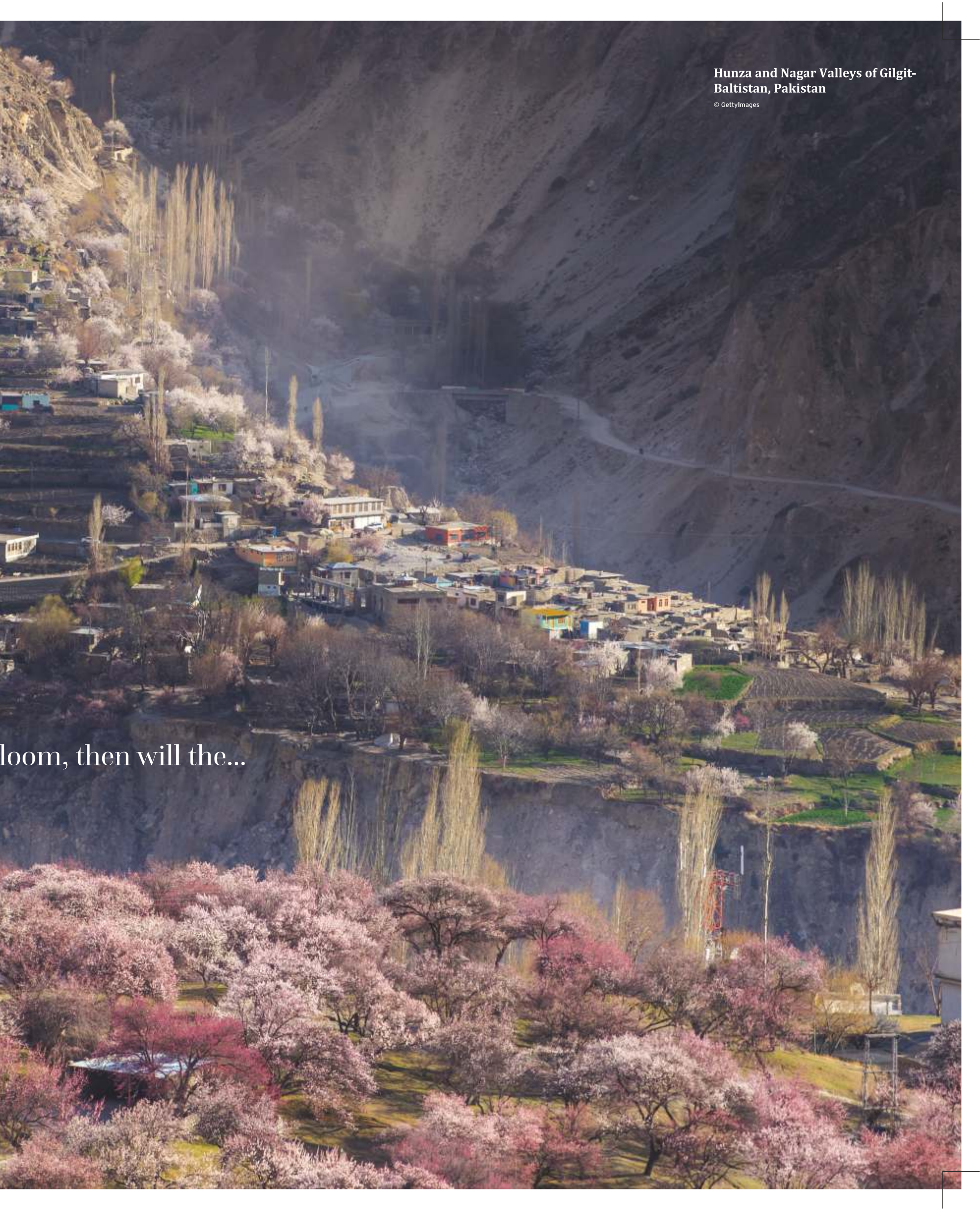
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“When the bright colourful morning tucks the cold winter night under its chin, then will the flowers b

Hunza and Nagar Valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan

© GettyImages

loom, then will the...



COVER STORY

...Spring Arrive.”



Sun-kissed skin, mustard aroma, balmy late evenings, and ambrosial blooming of flowers, mark the onset of spring. Spring, the season of rejuvenation welcomes life that emerges out of its winter slumber and sets foot on the carpet of bluebells under the lush blanket of greens. This season symbolizes breaking out of the erstwhile territories and springing towards the renewal in its true sense. The thriving beauty of earth lends an inspirational surge that touches the most dormant parts of our being. Such is the magic of seasons – it stays intact, and yet, is always new.

Spring is that time of the year when people set out on a journey to unearth the possibilities of change in their everyday life, inspired by the change in seasons. They travel to different destinations to behold the burst of colours sprung from vibrant gardens. And nature has a sea of beauty to offer, indeed. Budding flowers, flamboyant colours – the gush of beauty dominates the face of earth when spring rolls in. And the travellers take it as a cardinal opportunity to start afresh with the freshness of flowers and nature. There are some breathtaking destinations that are the paradigm of beauty and exult in their tryst with colours.

Join Bhawika Jethwani as she brings to the fore some empyrean destinations around the world that stand true to the beauty of spring.

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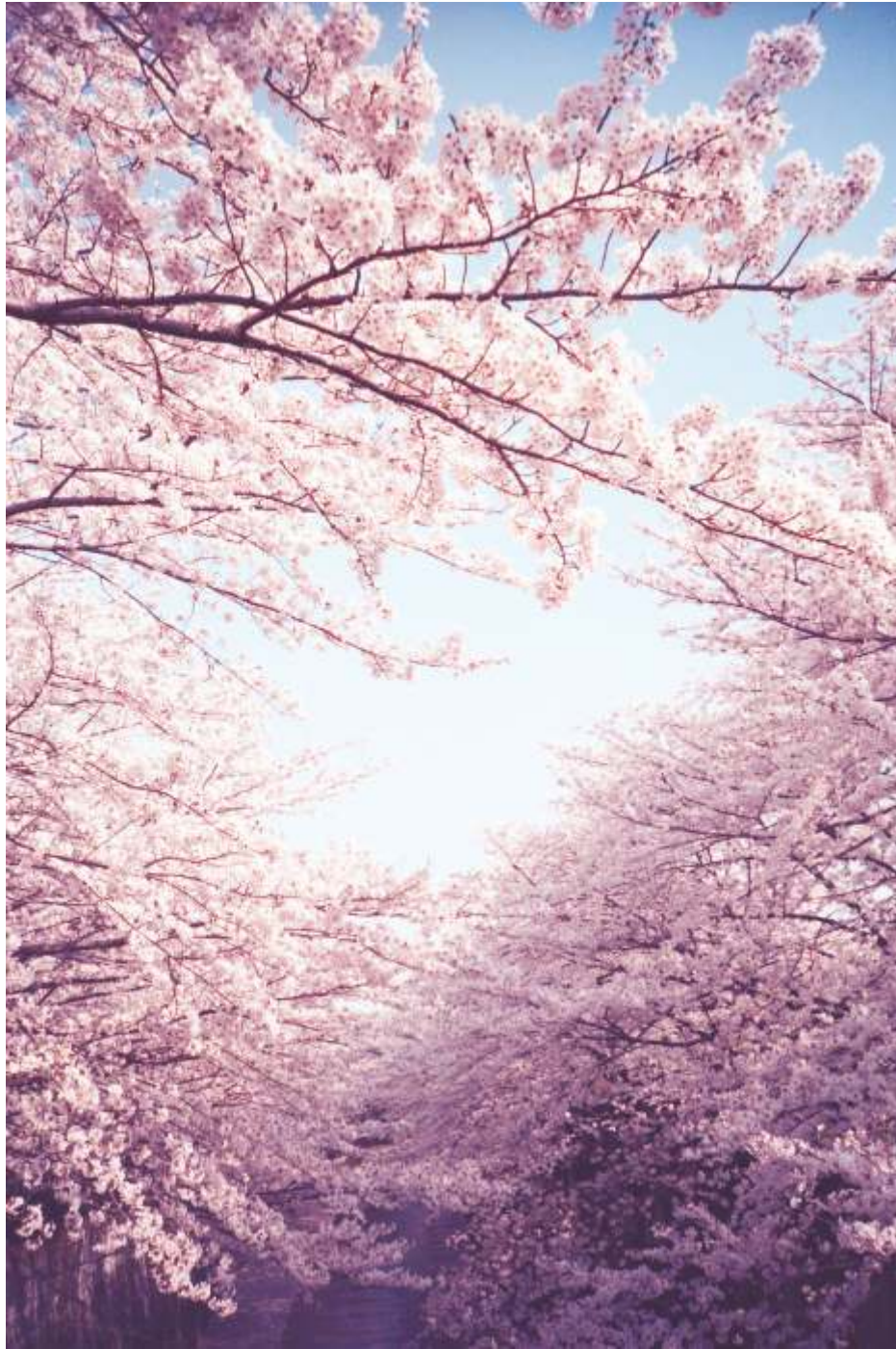


Hunza and Nagar Valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan

The Blooming of cherry blossoms (Known as Sakura in Japan) is a sight that receives incomprehensible admiration, and the blossom in Hunza and Nagar Valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan, heralds the nonpareil beauty. The snow-capped mountains, endless blue skies, and vibrant hues from the flowering trees of apricot, almond, peach, and apple – everything feels like an allegory of ephemeral allure. A 2-3 hour ride from Gilgit to Hunza, is accompanied by the sightings of gushing streams and a canopy of blooming greens. Indigenous cuisines of Gilgit on the way to Hunza, Gul-e-Gulmit village which is home to the most beautiful flowers, this destination is nothing short of majestic.



Cherry blossom trees are in full bloom at the Tidal Basin in Washington, DC.



All photos © GettyImages



Cherry Blossom Japan

Every year, the cherry blossom in Japan puts up a spectacular show that lasts for a week or at most two, and is known as Sakura, which is a conspicuous part of the Japanese culture. Tourists from all over the world have Hanami (flower watching) parties under the pink and white canopy of flowers that bloom most likely in mid-March. Ideas are marshalled in locations with large number of trees, to make spring indelible by installing food stalls and souvenir booths. With lanterns illuminating the night and some great monuments, the cherry blossom signifies that nature does not lose its essence even when it is transient.



All photos © GettyImages



Tulip Festival, Kashmir

Reds, yellows, whites, purples – Siraj Bagh or Indira Gandhi Tulip Garden, on the foothills of the Zabarwan Range in Srinagar, is a romantic spectacle, a muse, an art bearer. The garden hosts more than 2 million bulbs of more than 60 kinds, spread over five hectares of land, and is an appeasing treat to the eyes. Moreover, the festival hosts activities that visitors can be a part of. Visitors can get a taste of local Kashmiri cuisine, get up on the local culture and, take home innate handicrafts. Zabarwan opens a wide window to the splendid Dal Lake, giving its tourists a sweeping and memorable time.



**Castelluccio, Umbria,
Italy**

Situated at an altitude of 1452 meters, Castelluccio is an Umbrian town which is surrounded by Sibllini National Park, and overlooks three plains: Pian Grande, Pian Piccolo and Pian Perduto. Every year, during many weeks between May and July, it fills hearts with the magic of nature and its harmony with colours. Thousands of flowers in yellow, red, violet, and white, festoon the face of the plateau, creating a natural mosaic of colours. You can also admire lentils, gentianella, poppies, narcissuses, violets, asphodels, Eugeniae violets, clovers, oxalis and many more. Incredible opportunities to indulge in sports like hiking, paragliding, mountain biking, archery, and more, make Castelluccio the homeland of outdoor sports.





The Cotswolds, England

The fact that the gardens in the Cotswolds bloom throughout the year, makes it a very placid and romantic location. Painswick Rococo Garden, Colesbourne Park and Newark Park – a former Tudor hunting lodge – are must-visit locations when the spring season swings in. Woodchester Park, and the Gloucestershire Wildlife Nature Reserves offer a providential opportunity to spot the transcendent bluebells in their full bloom. There are major events held in the Cotswolds that include blossom trails, flagship events, and other small and large garden events, which make a dream come true for any nature lover.

All photos © GettyImages





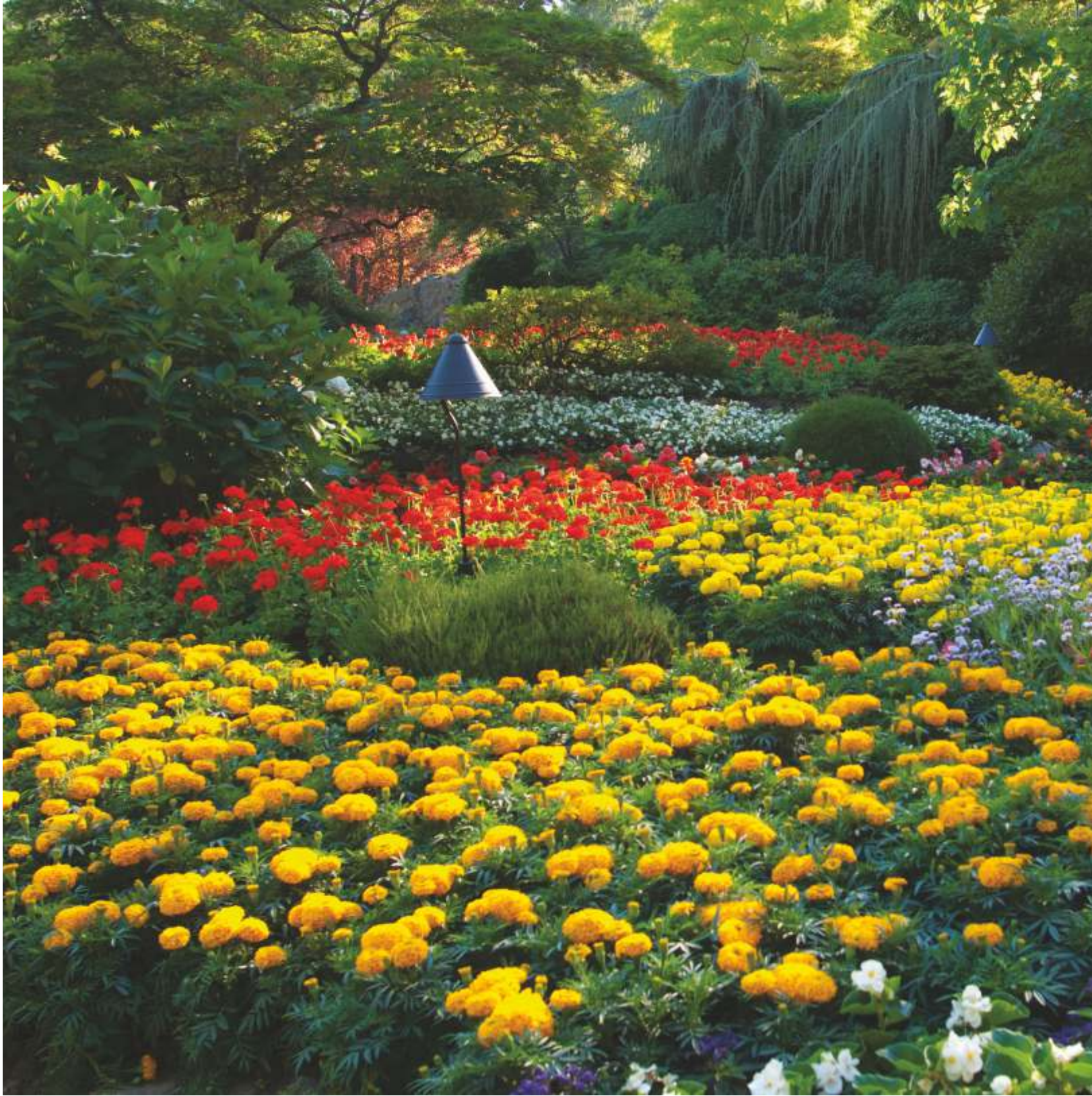
Wye Valley, Wales

The fascinating Wye Valley in Wales is an unparalleled destination soaked in beauty. Secret gardens, ruins and ancient towns, hidden amongst the depths of the woodland, are the major expectations of the visitors of this majestic landscape. Dewstow Gardens attract the attention of tourists looking for destinations seeped in history, since they were discovered in 2000 after being buried just after the 2nd World War. Spring sees Wye Valley at its most beautiful, and is the time to explore wildlife. A bunch of activities such as couple bicycle riding, fishing, white water rafting, bird watching, and more, are some enthralling activities to spend a sparkling day of spring in Wye Valley.

All photos © GettyImages



All photos © GettyImages





**Butchart Gardens, Victoria,
British Columbia**

The Butchart Gardens in Victoria, British Columbia is home to the Sunken, Rose, Italian, Japanese, and Mediterranean Gardens, with an add-on of the Concert Lawn Walk that give its visitors a beatific time. With the aroma of flowering bulbs and the prelude of spring glory, the Butchart Gardens invite visitors from all over the world to embrace the magnificence of nature. The beauty of colourful blossom unfolds itself to dazzle the spectators with its psychedelic charm. Each week, the gardeners of Butchart Gardens wake up to the vibrant hues of new blooming flowers revealing themselves. It is not difficult to fathom why tourists are enamored of these flowering beauties.



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Ready to move in. For a site visit, please contact Janhavi Mitra +91 99230 55555
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This project was completed before May 1, 2017.



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An Indian Spring

The spirit of Spring has been personified by poets for centuries; some have described beautiful flowers in full bloom while others have sung paeans of the orchestral extravaganza of the cuckoo bird (koel in India). There is indeed something very special about Springtime in India, as we watch the *palash* (commonly known as flame-of-the-forest) flowers set themselves 'ablaze' in a fiery (colour of) vermillion, spreading good cheer everywhere. The very thought of Spring brings to mind beautiful visions of clear blue skies, colourful flowers in bloom, pleasant evenings, and every new sunrise that ushers in a sense of rejuvenation and a zest for a life well-lived.

Springtime in India, like everywhere else, signifies the transition from winter to summer. It is that brief period when the chilly winter winds in North India make way for warm and idyllic sunny days, before the unrelenting heat of the summer takes you hostage, making you seek refuge in the soothing asylum of your home. Spring in India may be almost like a short-lived interlude between two changing seasons. However, by no stretch of imagination can it be accused of dampening spirits, as is demonstrated by the myriad cultural and religious celebrations that erupt between mid-January and early April, across the length and breadth of the country.

Above all, Springtime in India is also the time when idyllic travel sojourns beckon!

Join Chaitra Patel on a spring break, to some of the finest resorts in India, known for their incredible hospitality and the experiences they offer, set against the resplendent backdrop of verdant destinations there are to visit this Spring.



All photos © GettyImages



The snow begins to melt in Himachal Pradesh sometime around March, after which tourists infest the state, well into October. Giving the crowds a miss, is not an option; it's a necessity! Hence a visit to Himachal Pradesh's very own Valley of Apples, Ratnari, is what we absolutely recommend. Meena Bagh Ratnari is an apple orchard bungalow, and yes you guessed it right, sits bang in the middle of a lush apple orchard! Far from the madding crowds of Shimla, Meena Bagh Ratnari is where you can connect with nature and cover yourself with a luxurious blanket of tranquillity as you watch the birds fly by about their daily business and village folk engage in apple farming.

Sikkim in the North-East is said to be the gateway to the mighty Himalayas. And, the small town of Pelling, in the West of Sikkim, is where you can bask in the glory of the sacred summit, Khangchendzonga (also known as Kanchenjunga), the 3rd-highest mountain in the world. When in Pelling, The Elgin Mount Pandim allows you to experience a unique and personal tryst with the white-robed Khangchendzonga. The resort also recreates an utterly charming old-world feel that was fashioned by its first owners - the royal family of Sikkim, and offers an incredibly peaceful getaway.

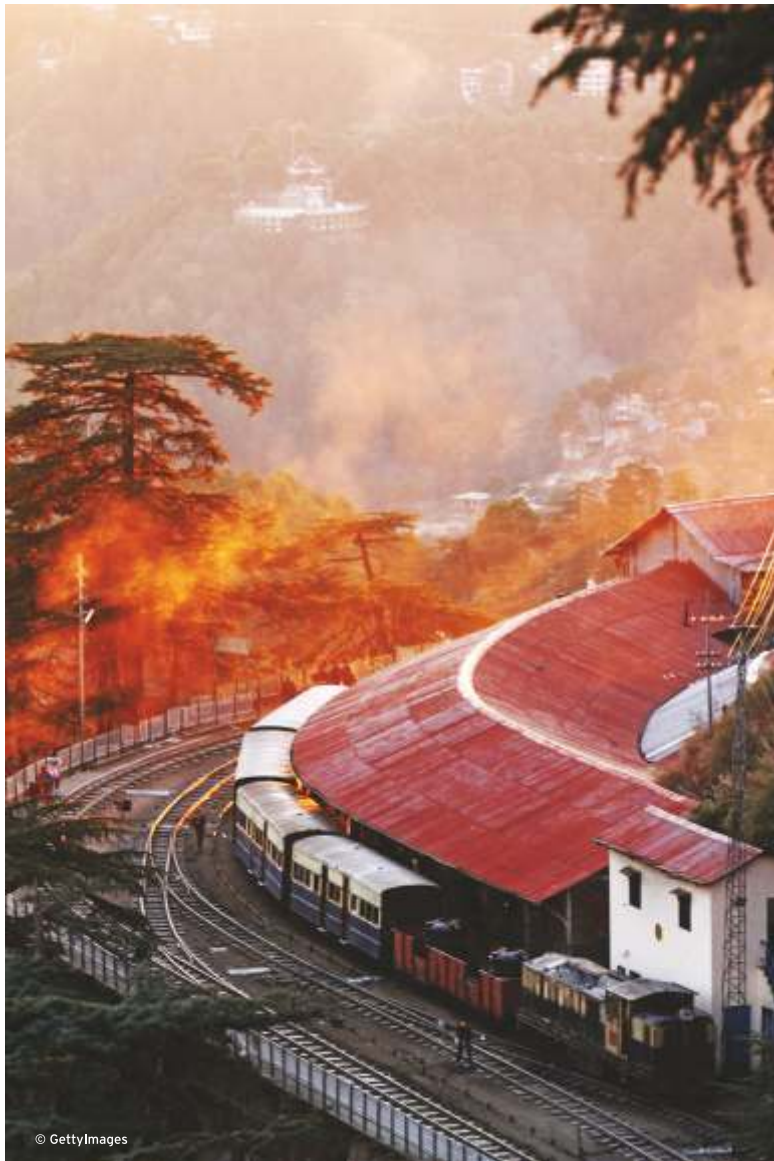
As you descend down south, we recommend you head to the state of Karnataka. Nestled amidst the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats is Kodagu or Coorg as the lush hill district renowned for its aromatic coffee plantations is known as. Here, a stay at The Tamara Coorg is undoubtedly one of the best experiences to savour, as the resort offers the unique proposition of a 360-degree coffee encounter from "Blossom to Brew". The Tamara lets you settle down into an extremely sumptuous space that is utterly warm and cosy at the same time, reminiscent of a log cabin nested in the woods with all possible creature comforts.

Even further down south, nestled in the Nilgiri Hills is The Kurumba Village Resort, an ecologically sustainable resort in Coonoor. Huddled amidst a bed of spices that the Nilgiris are famous for, the resort draws its name from one of the 5 ancient tribes of the Nilgiris, the Kurumbas. If its solace and inspiration that you seek, then the Nilgiris is where you will find it. The olfactory indulgence of cloves, nutmegs, cinnamon, cardamom and pepper that the Kurumba Village Resort allows you to soak yourself into, paired with an idyllic stay is what absolutely makes the resort a must-visit.

We invite you to revel in the sheer luxury of these resorts; each one that will enthrall you with its charm and create a bag full of cherished memories for you to carry back home.

Meena Bagh

Ratnari



About a 2-hour drive from Himachal Pradesh's capital city Shimla, lies Narkanda on NH5, which is a popular ski resort during the winters. But, if it's the relatively untrodden path that you wish to take, a detour of about 17 kilometres from Narkanda (of which, almost a 10 kilometres stretch comprises of a snaking mountainous road through a forest patch), takes you to the panchayat village of Ratnari.

At 2086 metres above sea-level, it may seem to urban denizens like this lesser-known, quaint Pahari village almost falls off the map. But mistake not, Ratnari is famous for apple farming and its apple orchards, and is also the recipient of the award for 'Neat and Clean Panchayats'.

A short 150 metres away from the roadside lies the Meena Bagh Ratnari, a bungalow that sits bang in the middle of a thriving apple orchard. Meena Bagh Ratnari is part of the duo that make up Meena Bagh Resorts. This bungalow, and the one in Shimla (Meena Bagh Shimla) take their names from the 65-year old apple orchard 'Meena Bagh' in Ratnari, which are owned by Sanjay Austa. Sanjay tends to his family orchards and the two resorts, i.e. when he is not pursuing his other interests in photography, writing, architecture and marine life.

Meena Bagh Ratnari is an eco-resort to the core, where the furniture is entirely made out of waste wood, the water is recycled and the house is also incredibly insulated against the fury of the cold winds. In Sanjay's own words, "this is the closest you get to living in a typical Himachali home" and provides guests a surreal experience of living in an apple orchard. Largely made up of wood, the bungalow is cosy and comprises of 2 inner rooms with attached baths and allows guests to soak in the surrounding spell-binding views through the magnificent French windows.

One of the significant aspects of any eco-friendly resort also implies making the space inclusive and responsible towards the needs and sentiments of the local citizens. Accordingly, both the Meena Bagh properties host a Farmer's Corner, where local farmers can sell their fresh produce and other wares. The Farmer's Corner also sells some homemade jams, marmalade and jelly, all made from the fresh produce from the orchards.



When you decide to stay at a resort such as this one, it's hard to make up your mind about which of its unique selling propositions is a better bet – the breath-taking views that envelope you, or the bungalow itself, with its very quaint characteristics such as a sunroom with sky lights and a fire place, and a telescope to gaze at the beautiful starry night sky. Either way, this lovely stone and wood cottage creates the perfect hideaway for those who seek tranquillity and to be one with nature, giving you the mawkish feeling of being amply looked after at a very hospitable homestay.

Ratnari is a prosperous apple farming region, yet it is a relatively closed society. This makes it all the more imperative to respect local sentiments and adhere to the way of life, when visiting Ratnari. Sanjay cautions against venturing out into the orchards on your own without supervision. Some other house rules (which really need to be followed everywhere irrespective of the prevalent rules) to be observed when you stay at Meena Bagh Ratnari include, not lighting a fire in the orchards or the compound, no loud noise music or honking, and the mandatory collecting one's own trash when out on a picnic or a trek.

Meena Bagh Ratnari is perfect for family holidays, reunions or simply lounging around. It's an utterly fascinating place if you wish to indulge in some bird watching or photography or simply stroll through the calm stillness of nature. If you are a writer, artist or journalist seeking a serene space for your artistic endeavours, or champion the cause of conservation in any manner, be rest assured that the good folk at Meena Bagh Ratnari will offer you not just a beautiful property, but also the advantage of a substantial discount.

When to Visit: Apple blossom in April, Harvest season between August and October or Winter, between December and March.
For More Details: <http://meenabaghresorts.com/>

The Elgin

Mount Pandim



At first glance, the hill-town of Pelling in West Sikkim comes across as nothing more than a narrow strip of road, infested by a concrete jungle of resorts and hotels that line the wooded mountainous ridge. But, stroll down a little further, and it magically transforms into a scenic spot that offers breath-taking views of the sacred Khangchendzonga. Pelling is fast emerging as the second most favoured destination to travel to in Sikkim, after Gangtok, and not without reason.

Pelling is surrounded by places of immense tourist interest; historic monasteries such as Pemayangtse Gumpa and Sanghak Choeling, the ruins of the 18th-century royal palace of Rabdentse, waterfalls and trek-friendly adventurous terrains. And then there is also the very regal Elgin Mount Pandim, set amidst 8-acres of virgin oak forest and landscaped gardens and offers guests a glorious view of the Singalila Ridge.

The Elgin Mount Pandim recreates an old-world charm, reminiscent of the time that it was first owned by the royal family of Sikkim. Today, part of the Elgin Group that owns some of the most luxurious heritage properties in the Himalayas in Darjeeling and Sikkim, the Elgin Mount Pandim serves as a peaceful retreat for guests in addition to being a great vantage point for spotting some rare birds.

All photos © GettyImages



As a guest at this lovely hotel, what is instantly striking is the fact that each of the 30 rooms of the hotel provides a spectacular view of the very imposing Himalayas. The hotel is tastefully done up in subtle colours and traditional design elements, reflecting a serene air of Sikkimese hospitality and ambience. The rooms are quiet and elegant, each one soundlessly telling a story of a bygone royal era. Like every modern-day luxury hotel, the Elgin Mount Pandim too indulges its guests with subtle luxuries that entice. From designer toiletries in the bathrooms to a 24x7 concierge service, wardrobes made of teakwood, en-suite mini bars, among many other indulgent amenities, the Elgin Mount Pandim very warmly extends its hospitality to its guests.

No stay at the Elgin Mount Pandim is complete without experiencing true Sikkimese hospitality. And, this is best experienced through a session of Afternoon Tea at the hotel. While historically, Anna Maria Russell, the Duchess of Bedford, may be credited for initiating the quintessential English custom of afternoon tea in 1840, the Elgin Mount Pandim offers guests at the hotel, its very own take on this world-renowned ritual. From a selection of select infused teas such as Earl Grey, English Breakfast, Lemon, Indian Masala to herbal and leaf teas such as Chamomile, Jasmine, the hotel also delights guests with favourites such as some fine Darjeeling teas, in addition to freshly brewed Italian Lavazza coffee. All this, accompanied with dainty sandwiches and house cookies, scones, shortbreads and cakes or something more indigenous such as piping hot *pakodas*.

With facilities that pamper the senses, it is natural to wish to stay indoors at the Elgin Mount Pandim. But, then you would be missing out on all the adventure and history there is to soak in, from the moment you step outside. And, to make sure you make the best of your wanderings around Pelling and its neighbouring areas, the hotel staff is happy to oblige. All you need to do is ask and they will be happy to help you plan your day wisely! If you wish to saunter about the vicinity, then a short walk of just about a kilometre is perfect, because that is just how close the 300-year Pemayangtse Gumpa (monastery) is to the hotel. The easy-paced 45-minute trail offers you resplendent views of the Khangchendzonga. In the mood for something less laidback, then the Pelling Pemayangtse Rabdentse Ruins Walk is much recommended. Comprising of a walk of about 1 hour and 45 minutes, covering an approximate distance of 2 kilometres, the trail takes you to the ruins of Rabdentse, the former capital of Sikkim and introduces you to flora that is endemic to the region.

With miles of virgin countryside to explore, tea gardens to visit and springtime wild flowers to behold, the Elgin Mount Pandim promises you a bag full of happy memories to travel back home with.

When to Visit: Summer, between March and May.

For More Details: <http://www.elginhotels.com/pelling.php>

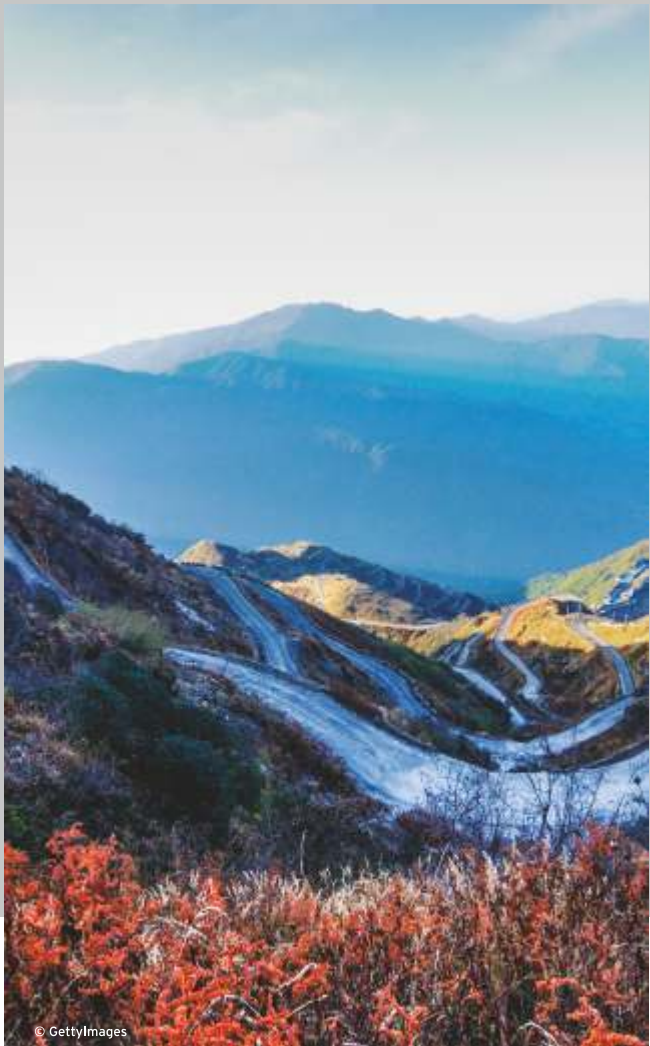
The Elgin Mount Pandim



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The Tamara

Coorg

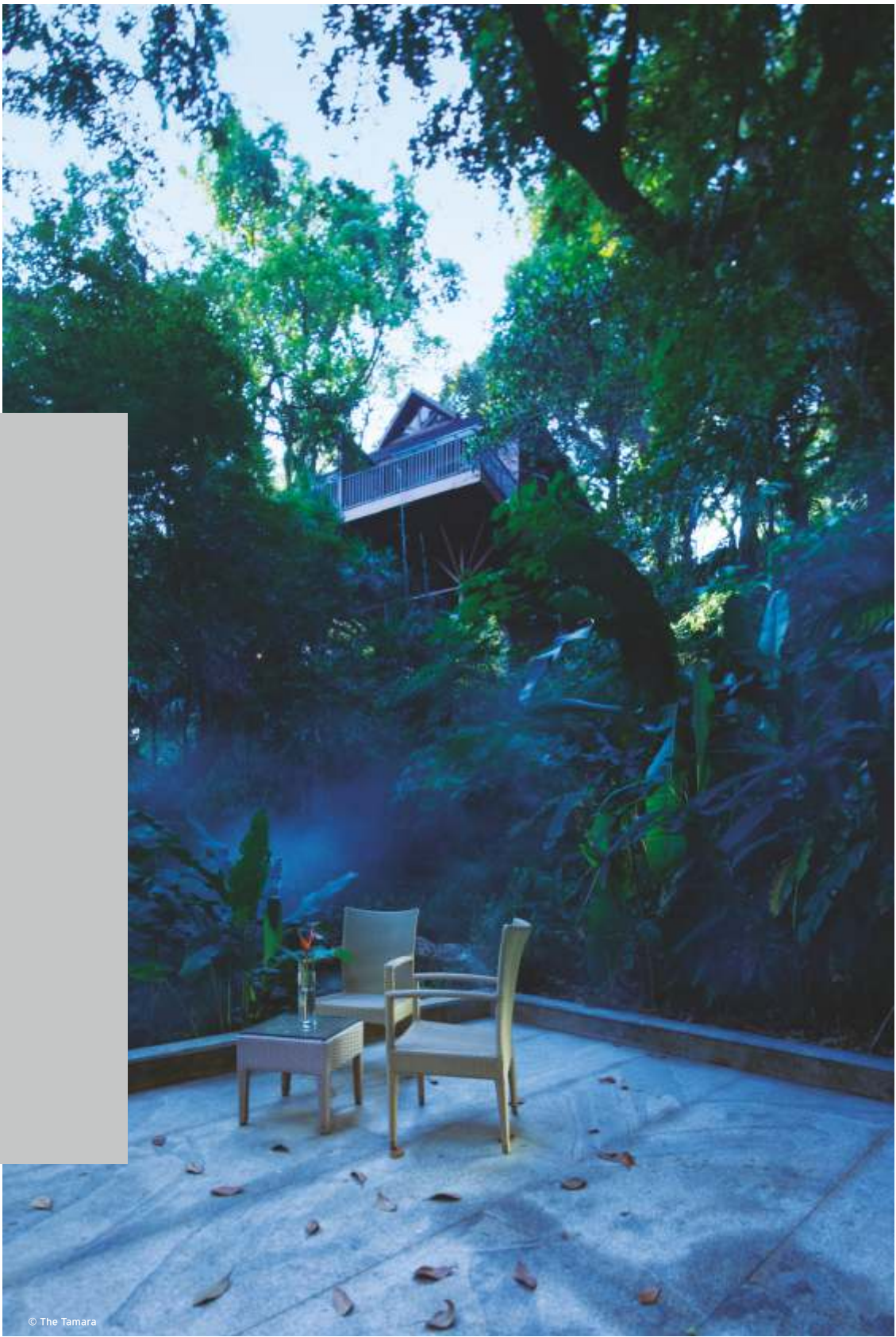


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The southernmost edge of the state of Karnataka is home to Kodagu or Coorg, a land known for its land-owning, martial people, the Kodavas (anglicised as Coorgs). British ethnographer and colonial administrator, Sir Herbert Risley described the Coorgs as the “finest race without any exception in Southern India”. Indeed, the Kodavas are a unique people; their customs, food and attire distinguishing them from the rest of India. But, it's not just the way of life that is distinctive of the Kodavas; the region too is blessed with the bounties of nature, pristine emerald landscapes and, acres and acres of fragrant coffee plantations till as far as the eye can see. After all, it's not for nothing that Coorg is called the 'Scotland of India'.

Madikeri or Mercara, Coorg's bustling town and headquarters of the district, offers visitors to the region many notable sights to visit. However, it is really the Kodagu countryside that allows you to witness nature in all her glory. From lazy ambles along uneven pathways to birdwatching and trekking through hilly terrains, the absolutely serene environs of the Kodagu countryside guarantee complete rejuvenation. And, for a thoroughly pristine and tranquil experience, a stay at The Tamara Coorg is much recommended.

The Tamara Coorg promises a sense of harmony and serenity. Drawing from the Balinese concept of *Tri Hita Karana*, which means that the universe can only attain perfect balance when God, man, and nature live in harmony, The Tamara Coorg too celebrates the elements of nature.



© The Tamara



The Tamara Coorg

Spread across a verdant expanse of 180.2 acres of land that produces coffee, cardamom and pepper, The Tamara Coorg is perhaps only one of the few resorts in the world that has been built on a fully functional coffee plantation. This proposition allows guests a 360-degree coffee experience, from "Blossom to Brew". That means, a stay at The Tamara Coorg not only entitles you to revel in its resplendent luxury, but also allows you to custom create your own signature coffee blend; right from plucking the coffee berries when in season to roasting your choice of coffee beans. This, along with shopping for some interesting memorabilia is what you can indulge in at 'The Verandah', which is a glorious heritage building on the estate that spoils you with the perfect coffee experience. The Verandah is divided into 4 sections; the Gift Shop, where you can shop for gifts and souvenirs, the Custom Coffee section where you can make your own blend, a bookstore and finally a coffee bar.

The Tamara Coorg offers guests a chance to dwell in luxury, inside and out. With a total of 56 cottages, ranging from luxury cottages, superior luxury cottages and suites, you are indeed spoilt for choice. Architecturally, the resort is designed keeping the geographical terrain and steep topography in mind, allowing natural air and sunlight to penetrate into the plush living spaces. Cosy and comfortable, reminiscent of a log cabin nestled in the woods, akin to an alpine chalet, the interiors of the cottages have been outfitted with the most indulgent conveniences and services. For a truly elevated experience, do visit 'The Elevation', the resort's spa facility. This is where you can surrender yourself to some of their signature spa treatments, take a dip in the pool, pump some iron in the gymnasium or simply lounge around in the serenity of the steam and sauna facility.



It's not just the resort and its interiors that are stunningly invigorating. The good folk at The Tamara are also happy to show you around the neighbourhood. You could ask for a guided tour of the coffee and spice plantations (not to be missed, because it's not every day that you get a chance to stay on a plantation), or a trekking tour to the Pathi Pole Falls. There is a dedicated resident yoga instructor too who will teach you the art of yogic postures and their meanings, helping you build positivity, inner strength and spiritual health.

The Tamara

Coorg

Meet The City / March - April 2018



All photos © The Tamara Coorg



The lush hills and pastures that abound the grounds of The Tamara Coorg are perfect for livestock grazing. This is where the indigenous livestock that is bred at the in-house cow barn grazes, and in return provides rich organic milk that makes its way to the kitchens of resort. The manure collected is used to nurture the coffee plantation, making the entire process of maintaining the resort and its surroundings, very eco-sustainable. Taking its green footprint to the next level, The Tamara Coorg also follows a comprehensive organic waste management system by the name of 'Manthan', substantially reducing the extent of garbage which would otherwise be sent to landfills. The waste from the resort's kitchens and garden is used to richly fertilise the coffee plantation.

Like every other activity or resort facility at The Tamara Coorg which is steeped in the many shades of nature, dining at the resort too is a fulfilling 'farm to fork' experience. Whether you dine at the multi-cuisine restaurant 'The Falls' or hangout with other guests at the lounge bar, 'The Deck', the chefs at The Tamara Coorg make sure they serve up some gastronomically delightful meals made from the finest organic vegetables, sourced from the resort's garden. Given its pristine surroundings and fresh air, the resort also has the perfect ploy to create magical and intimate candlelit dining experiences.

'Tamara' in Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu implies the lotus flower. And, just like the lotus is a symbol of purity and pristineness, The Tamara Coorg transports you to an enchanted land that brings you upfront with nature and helps you connect with your inner self. This is where you experience Kodava hospitality at its very best!

When to Visit : Spring, Summer and Winter
For More Details: <https://www.thetamara.com/coorg-resort/>

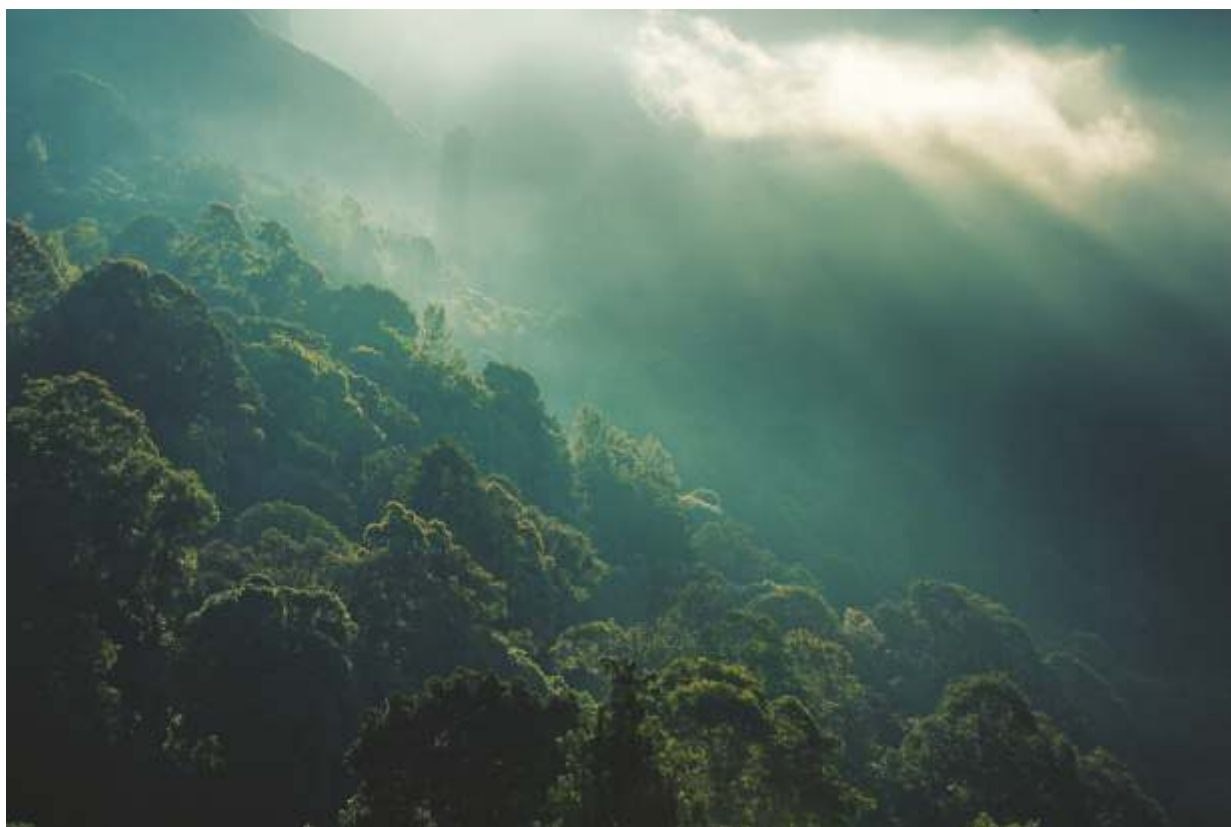
A heady aroma of nutmeg, pepper and cloves greets you as you make your way through the winding hill roads of the Nilgiris. An hour and a half drive from Coimbatore, it takes a few hairpin bends, steep turns and almost a deep drive down the valley, before you embark upon your journey through the Nilgiri's spice route at Kurumbadi, a neighbourhood in Coonoor. Welcome to the Kurumba Village Resort or *Vanakkam* as they are akin to greeting you here, an eco-resort enveloped by a sanctuary of spices.

From the moment you step into the Kurumba Village Resort, it is natural to feel suspended from reality as you step into seclusion, blanketed by a sense of serenity. Yet, there is something incredibly vibrant about the space that is vivaciously brought to life by the lush surroundings of the spice valley and the bright yellow and orange interiors of the living spaces. The Kurumba Village Resort is the perfect example of a symbiotic relationship between man and nature!

The Nilgiris (Neelagiri in Sanskrit, which literally means blue hills) are southern India's mountain range in Tamil Nadu, comprising of a number of peaks. The region is often associated with its inhabitants of indigenous origins. These ethnic groups, sometimes referred to as the lost tribes of the Nilgiris are the Todas, Kothas, Kurumbas, Irulas and Badagas. Of these, the Kurumbas are believed to be the closest to nature, exhibiting a symbiotic coexistence with their natural surroundings. That explains how the resort draws its unique name!

Kurumba Village Resort

Coonoor



All photos © the Kurumba Village Resort



Kurumba Village Resort

Coonoor

Drawing from the Kurumba way of life, the Kurumba Village Resort sets a precedent to follow in the footsteps of the Kurumba tribe. And, true to this philosophy, the Kurumba Village Resort is an eco-friendly destination that is home to nearly 2000 endemic trees that have been planted by the owners over the years. The resort also dispenses hot water to the living quarters through gas geysers, entirely doing away with electric ones, while future plans also include eliminating the use of plastic such as the bottles of toiletries that are placed in each bathroom.

It's not just the surrounding lushness that mesmerises you. The staff at the Kurumba Village Resort make sure too that you savour your stay through the best experiences there are to be had. Once you reserve a stay at this resort, the staff welcomes you with an email inviting you to make a wish. They call this Wishineering! And, for them, no wish is too big or too small to be granted! They are happy to indulge you and recreate 'the perfect day' for you, 'a romantic breakfast', 'a romantic table for two', 'rose milk baths' and so much more – you just have to name it, and your wish is their command!

The nip in the fresh air that covers you from head to toe at Kurumbadi is the perfect ploy to explore and experience the grounds of the Kurumba Village Resort and its surroundings. A visit to the tea factory accompanied by a session of tea tasting in Upper Coonoor is a thoroughly

engaging experience. You can also take the famed toy train 'to nowhere' and back just for a lark, as you explore the verdant hills through which runs the century old heritage railway track, between Coonoor and Kallar.

There is certainly a lot you can do when you stay at the Kurumba Village Resort and the list may run into pages. Romantic dinner sojourns are yours to savour here. Dine in the cosy warmth of a cave or on a tree top, above the clouds; by the poolside or undertake a picnic on your very own jeep safari. The choice is yours to make and the chefs at the resort are only too happy to oblige with wonderful palate-pleasing fare.

Whether you take to the great green outdoors or simply lounge around in the comfort of your living quarters, the resort and its wonderful staff guarantee you a time of your life. Draw the curtains of the bay windows in each of the rooms and it's like falling in love all over again! The stillness all around is gently punctured by a calm gurgle of a nearby stream that flows through the resort. This is when you realise, you have arrived, in the midst of blissful serenity!

When to Visit: Summer between March and May.

For More Details: <http://www.natureresorts.in/kurumba/>



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Models present creations for fashion house Versace during the Women's Spring/Summer 2018 fashion shows in Milan.
(Photo : MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP/Getty Images)

GIANNI



A fashion runway show featuring two models wearing vibrant, pop-art inspired dresses. The dresses are covered in a dense, colorful pattern of stylized faces and abstract shapes, reminiscent of Andy Warhol's work. The model on the left is wearing a yellow dress with a large, stylized face on the bodice. The model on the right is wearing a long-sleeved, off-the-shoulder dress with a similar pattern. Both models are looking directly at the camera. The background is dark and out of focus, showing the silhouettes of the audience.

VERSACE

THE COUTURIER OF



REGGIO DI CALABRIA

“I think it's the responsibility
of a designer to try to
break rules and barriers.
I'm a little like Marco Polo,
going around and
mixing cultures”.

Gianni Versace

Against a multi-hued background such as this, haute fashion in the 70s was almost an untrodden territory, with much of its rich patrons far removed from the everyday life on the streets or for that matter, music, films and modern art. Yet, there was one, who drew inspiration from all that happened 'out there', in real life - Gianni Versace.

Known for his imposing prints and signature styles, Versace very cleverly borrowed from popular influences and successfully persuaded even the fussiest of clients with his eclectic sense of design and style. A designer to celebrities, royalty, musicians alike and a dear friend to many, Gianni Versace's outlandish designs initially startled the world of haute fashion. His use of leather, plastic and metal was most unconventional, yet much admired.

Versace infused his designs with tremendous vivacity and colour. He introduced music and art to the world of contemporary fashion and was the first designer to tap into the publicity potential of the legendary 'celebrity front row'. For a time that was devoid of the 'instant gratification' derived from social media, Gianni Versace filled the missing holes very deftly and provided the perfect publicity platform for his designs - he was an absolute showman to the core.



Gianni Versace and Donatella Versace on the runway after a Versace fashion show in March 1996 in New York City, New York.
(Photo by Catherine McGann/Getty Images)

Much of the everyday fashion in the 1970s was a reflection of the many sentiments and political ideologies of the decade's young men and women. Pant suits and wrap dresses draped around lean silhouettes and topped with a head-full of long hair completed the stereotypical 70s look. This, fused with the time's mainstream ideals of gender rights, baby boomers, women's lib and equality among others, was the popular mood back then. This was the decade of the non-conformists.

The early 70s were dominated by the popular 'look' of bohemian or hippie-like. It was also a time when the fashion market was flooded with cheap synthetic fabrics, bell-bottoms, psychedelic colours and glitter, prompting Vogue to announce, "There are no rules in the fashion game now". By the mid-70s the hippie look gave way to other forms of casual attire such as sweaters, graphic tee shirts, jeans and khakis, along with glam rock styles that dominated the music industry.

Intrigued by everything that happened in the world around him, Versace 'introduced' the fashion industry to the real world and challenged the snobbery of the condescending green rooms of couture fashion. Today, twenty years after his tragic death, Versace and the renowned head of Medusa that was a recurring feature in his designs continue to remain the undisputable word in glamour.

Meet The City pays tribute to a legend, whose lore continues to live on, on the runways of the world.

Chaitra Patel invites you to celebrate a star and take a look at some of Gianni Versace's eminent prints and pieces from his most successful years, showcased at the Spring 2018 tribute show at Milan's Triennale museum.



A Genius...An Icon... **My Brother**



Top models (from left) Carla Bruni, Claudia Schiffer, Italian designer Donatella Versace ©, Naomi Campbell, Cindy Crawford and Helena Christensen pose at the end of the show for fashion house Versace during the Women's Spring/Summer 2018 fashion shows in Milan, on September 22, 2017. The Spring 2018 show was a tribute to mark the 20th anniversary of the murder of Italian designer Gianni Versace. Donatella Versace, who took over as designer soon after her brother's sudden death, presented a blockbuster tribute show that ended with five of the original supermodels taking to the catwalk together, soundtracked by George Michael's 'Freedom'. (Photo : MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP/Getty Images)

Gianni Versace, takes a bow at a 1991 Los Angeles, California, fashion show with Carla Bruni, Claudia Schiffer, Naomi Campbell, Cindy Crawford and Helena Christensen. (Photo by George Rose/Getty Images)



Twenty years ago, in July 1997, the legendary Gianni Versace was shot dead outside his residence at Miami Beach. His murder shocked not just the world of fashion, but also upset an industry that he so passionately infused with life, music, colour and sensuality, making it almost a standard for contemporary culture across the world. Versace was famous for the strong bond he shared with celebrities, supermodels, and musicians; or as the British-American editor-in-chief of Vogue and artistic director for Condé Nast, Anna Wintour told The New York Times, Versace “was the first to realize the value of celebrity in the front row, and the value of the supermodel, and put fashion on an international media platform.”

Gianni Versace's illustrious career was notably marked by the fact that he handpicked a few runway models, placed them on the highest pedestal of glamour and created an elite ensemble of supermodels. These chosen few, elegantly draped in Versace's iconic designs came to be regarded to the world as 'fashion goddesses' and became household names, featuring on leading covers everywhere.

Two decades on, it is only befitting that Versace's twentieth death anniversary is marked by an epic fashion show that concluded with a tribute to the master couturier by five of his 'original 90s supermodels' - Cindy Crawford, Naomi Campbell, Claudia Schiffer, Helena Christensen and Carla Bruni, walking arm in arm with his sister Donatella Versace at the Versace Milan Fashion Week.

The period between 1991 and 1995 was perhaps one of the most influential ones in the history of contemporary fashion. And, for a good reason too; for what would the world of fashion be today, if not for Versace's Baroque themed prints and collections such as Vogue, Warhol, My Friend Elton, Icons, Animalia, Native Americans, Tresor de la Mer, Metal Mesh, and Butterflies that ruled the ramp in the 90s?

“We pay homage to not only (Gianni's) artistic genius but to who he was as a man, and above all, as my brother”.
Donatella Versace

Now, two decades on, imagine these classic pieces donned by new-age supermodels such as Gigi and Bella Hadid, Kaia Gerber, Candice Swanepoel, Kendall Jenner and others. Surreal!

“I was always afraid to touch the work of Gianni”, said Donatella, explaining the rationale behind the show, adding, “I thought I would be criticized: 'She isn't Gianni.' I thought I was going to fail. And the younger girls - Kendall, Gigi (they) kept asking what it was all about”. Indeed, which new-age model would not want to drape herself in Versace's iconic prints?

All images from creations for fashion house Versace during the Women's Spring/Summer 2018 fashion show in Milan.
(Photo : MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP/Getty Images)



“For me, this is a celebration of my brother, an opportunity to do something lively and fun, that creates joy. We need it these days.”

Donatella Versace

Putting together a fashion show as majestic as the Spring 2018 tribute show was certainly no easy feat. "Over the years I've seen so many homages to Gianni Versace and direct reference to Gianni Versace," said Donatella. "But, I didn't have the courage to do it myself. But, then I realized: I was there for all of it", she added. And, she took the plunge and dived deep into the 10,760 square feet archives in a town called Novara, west of Milan. This storage facility houses some of Versace's iconic pieces, almost 13,000 of them. Donatella chose twelve of Gianni's classic prints and adapted these to her design requirements such as day-wear, sharper shoulders and fewer slits.

The spectacular result was for everyone to see - a blast from the past and a step into the present. Every present-day garment donned by the runway's leading ladies came alive with Gianni's larger-than-life prints. Particularly interesting is the fact that each garment that will be later worn by consumers will bear a note on the collection and its celebrated origins.



Top models (from left) Carla Bruni, Claudia Schiffer, Naomi Campbell, Cindy Crawford and Helena Christensen pose at the end of the show for fashion house Versace during the Women's Spring/Summer 2018 fashion show in Milan.

(Photo : MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP/Getty Images)

"Gianni was all about joy,
and so full of life, and the prints really express that spirit"
Donatella Versace

Donatella Versace's imposing show is relevant in the times we live today. In many ways, the show was a tribute to the spirit of the utter playfulness and joy, ingenuity, a certain sense of vanity and an element of incredible oomph and hotness the fashion genius Gianni brought to the world runway.

And, the cherry on the cake? Five of Gianni Versace's favourite supermodels and the runway's much-loved faces of the 90s came together on Donatella's invitation for the show's grand finale. Cindy Crawford, Claudia Schiffer, Helena Christensen, Naomi Campbell and Carla Bruni (Carla Bruni-Sarkozy) have after all always been associated with Gianni Versace's ideal of a glamazon.

Adorned in floor-length gowns of gold chain mail, the five divas mirrored a 1994 ad campaign shot by the late Richard Avedon, as they walked the runway together with Donatella to Freedom! '90 by yet another (late) legend, George Michael. As the original 90s supermodels revealed themselves from behind the curtain, a voice somewhere in the background announced, "Gianni, this is for you". Interestingly, both the campaign by Avedon and the music video for Freedom featured at least two or three of the iconic supermodels, at the peak of their successful careers.

If there is one thing that stood apart from the rather touching tribute and the return of the supermodels to the runway in memory of Gianni, without doubt it would be just how relevant Gianni Versace's aura and his designs continue to be today as well. After all, not every brand can command the erstwhile first lady of France to walk the runway. But, Gianni was always special; perhaps even more special to the present-day supermodels, in this day and age of digital media. "Pride. Joy. Honor. I felt so much today, and I feel so grateful to all of you for your life-long inspiration", Gigi Hadid wrote on her Instagram account after the show. "Thank you @versace_official @donatella_versace for giving us the opportunity to celebrate you and your brother #gianniversace tonight, whose magic has driven so many of us! SO MUCH LOVE", she added.

Indeed, if Gianni Versace was alive today, he would have been delighted.



Gianni Versace playing with his niece Francesca and puppies. (Photo by David Lees/The LIFE Images Collection/Getty Images)



I want always to be positive.

Gianni Versace once said, "When you are born in a place such as Calabria and there is beauty all around a Roman bath, a Greek remain, you cannot help but be influenced by the classical past". Perhaps that explains the heavy influence of these classical themes on his designs. Wandering among the ancient Greek and Roman ruins while he lived in Reggio di Calabria, he drew early inspiration from the symbols of the Etruscan civilization, Italian Baroque patterns and Grecian motifs. These would famously go on to form the principal themes of much of his clothing lines.

Early Beginnings

Born in 1946 to an appliance salesperson Antonio and an Italian dress maker and clothing store owner Francesca, Gianni practically grew up in his mother's studio. Surrounded by Francesca's seamstresses, dress-designing came naturally to him, prodding him to once comment that the design workshop was his playground as a child. Versace loved clothes and fashion and admired the elegant women that visited his mother's store.

"Designing came to me. I didn't have to move" said Gianni. By the time he graduated from high school, he had begun working in his mother's studio. And, yet for a brief period, he studied architectural drawing, before completely immersing himself into a full-time profession of designing clothes. At age eighteen, he was already working as a buyer for his mother and attending fashion shows. By twenty-two, Versace was designing a collection to be sold in his mother's studio, for a local garment manufacturer. That was the turning point in Gianni's design career - he was soon making a name for himself in the hub of Italian fashion - Milan.

In 1972, Versace flew to Milan to design an 'instant' summer collection for the Florentine Flowers clothing mill. This was only the beginning of Versace's tryst with fame. For the 1970s fashion market that was mostly labelled with 'Made in Italy' tags, a personal touch to clothing was vital. Soon, Gianni Versace was designing for De Parisini of Santa Margherita followed by a women's ready-to-wear line for famous Milanese design houses such as Callaghan and Genny. By 1974, he had created a special line for the Italian manufacturer, Girombelli. Labelled 'Complice by Versace', this was an all-leather collection, almost a first, back in the day.



Carla Bruni Archives

PARIS, FRANCE - JANUARY 01: Nadja Auermann, Carla Bruni, Amber Valletta (2nd on Below rank), Linda Evangelista, Naomi Campbell, Shalom Harlow, Claudia Schiffer and Top Models ' Fashion Aid Clothing ' Tee Shirts Pose at the Versace High Fashion Show at the Ritz Hotel on January 1, 1994 in Paris, France. (Photo by Foc Kan/Wireimage/Gettyimages)



All in the Family

Supported by the Girombellis, it wasn't long before Gianni Versace had his own fashion house. In the beginning of 1978, he founded Gianni Versace S.p.A. in Milan, starting off with retailing his collections for Genny, Callaghan and Complice. He was joined by his older brother Santo and younger sister Donatella, making it entirely a family venture. The same year in March, Gianni Versace launched his women's ready-to-wear signature collection, followed by his maiden menswear line in September.

The Versace siblings were very close, but Donatella, the youngest of the three was undoubtedly Gianni's muse and best friend. "I was his doll and his best friend. He dressed me up in cool clothes, took me out to discos and clubs from when I was 11. I loved it. It was the best time of my life", she is reported to have said. While Santo as CEO managed the business, Donatella was by Gianni's side all through his heydays of the 90s. She is reported to have described this 'coup' as, "There was Santo, the calm one; Gianni, the enfant terrible, and me - Gianni's accomplice".

Gianni Versace's business ideal was largely defined by the concept of the family structure of the Italian Renaissance, where the male head of the family had the obligatory duty to 'provide'. "You can trust them", he is reported to have said about his family. "You can fight with them and be back in love. We can fight at 6 o'clock and have a nice dinner at 8".

As a family-run enterprise Versace chose to remain independent, with the entire production cycle under one label. Gianni chose to manage the entire process inhouse, from design to retail, making it only one of the few (brands) who had controlling interests in the manufacturing and retail processes just as much as they did in the creative and design process.

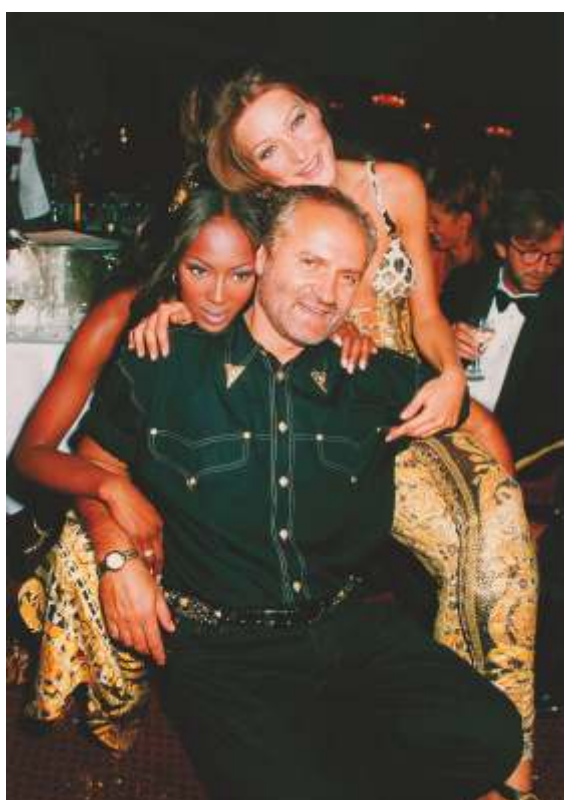
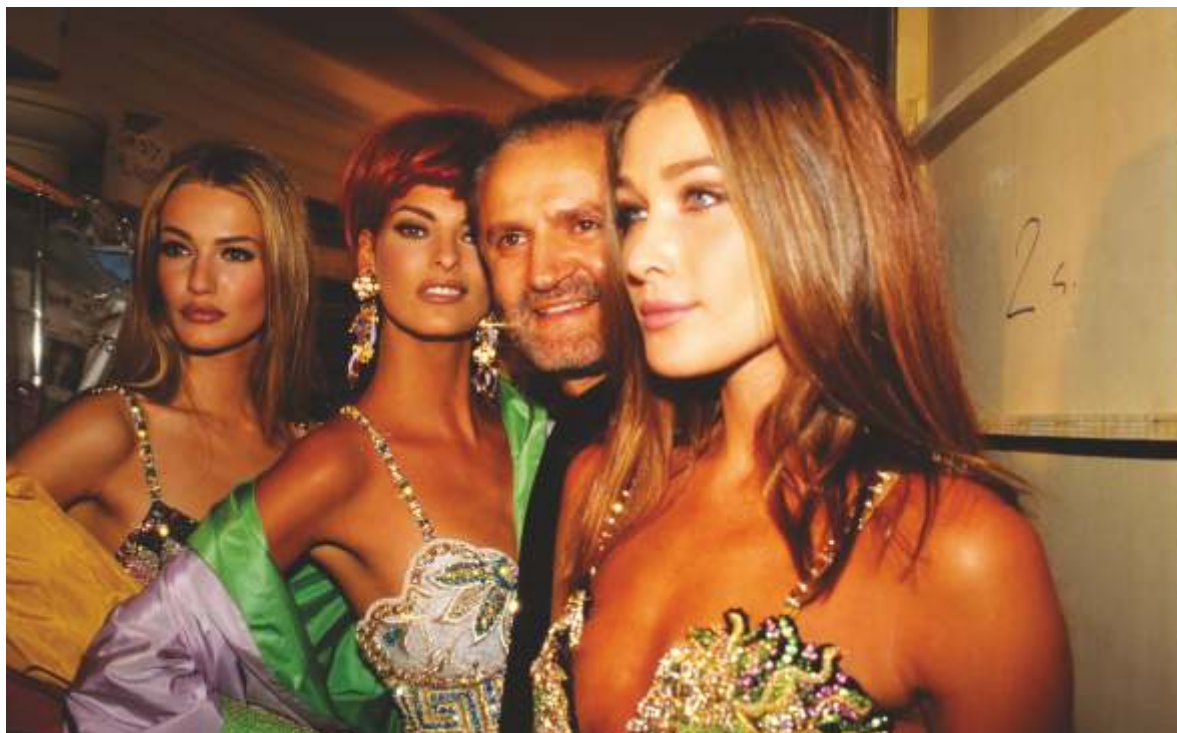
Versace - Fashion's Rockstar

Gianni Versace made sure that fashion implied entertainment. His associations with celebrities, musicians and royalty made him the final name in glamour. His flamboyant designs and their wearers made him the talk of town. Through the 80s and 90s, he produced vibrant outfits using material as varied as aluminium mesh, metal, plastic and leather or employing techniques such as the "neo-couture" laser technology, to fuse leather and rubber; all unheard of in the world of fashion. His sensuous silhouettes attracted much criticism and were dubbed vulgar, but Versace carried on unfazed.

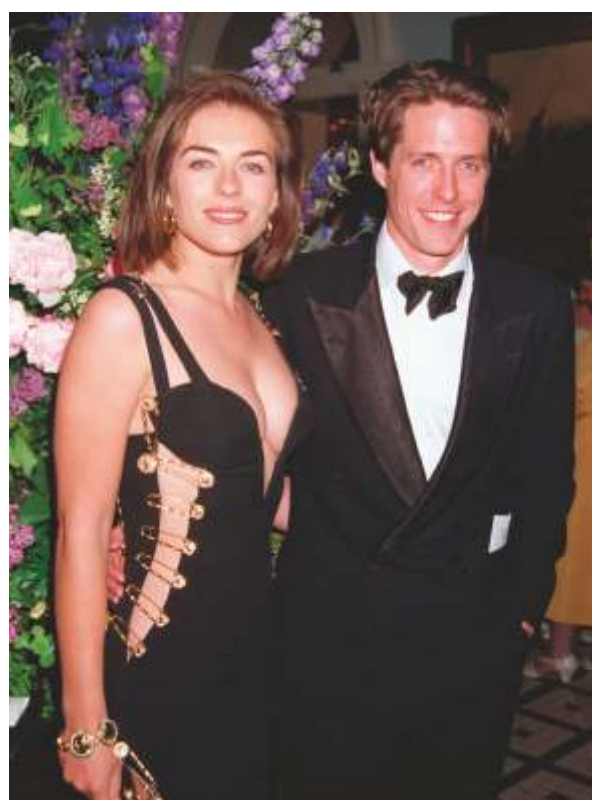
Gianni Versace was a non-conformist. He is remembered for his insatiable appetite for knowledge and the urge to nudge people around him to open their minds to new ideas and concepts. His opulent and theatrical designs delighted his ultra-rich clientele, often catapulting their wearers to instant fame and stardom. One of Versace's best-known creations in the 90s was the black dress that a relatively lesser-known Elizabeth Hurley wore in 1994 as she accompanied Hugh Grant to the premiere of 'Four Weddings and a Funeral'. Referred to as THAT Dress, the dress was made up of silk and lycra and held together by several large gold safety pins and was largely responsible for launching Hurley on a global platform.

Yet another recurrent feature in Versace's designs was the head of Medusa. Growing up in Reggio di Calabria implied that the ancient Greek influence on Magna Graecia (coastal areas of Southern Italy) had a strong bearing on Gianni who was completely taken in by the culture, especially the notion of Medusa, one of the three gorgons from classical Greek mythology. Gianni Versace's Medusa is indicative of power, strength and beauty and is an expression of his vision - the allure for tradition and classical nuances and yet bearing the strong ability to astound and shock.

Karen Mulder, Linda Evangelista, Gianni Versace and Carla Bruni, attend the Versace High Fashion Show at the Ritz Hotel on January 1, 1992 in Paris, France. (Photo by Foc Kan/WireImage/ Gettyimages)



Models Carla Bruni and Naomi Campbell pose with designer Gianni Versace at the Save the Rain Forest Gala dinner at the Grovesnor House Hotel hosted by Sting on March 26, 1992 in London, England. (Photo by Dave M. Bennett/Getty Images)



Actress Elizabeth Hurley wears a Gianni Versace dress to the premiere of 'Four Weddings and A Funeral' held in Leicester Square on March 09, 1994 in London, England. (Photo by Dave Benett/Getty Images)



Gianni Versace (R) with top model Naomi Campbell during the presentation of the Autumn/Winter 96/97 High Fashion collection at Paris. (Photo by Getty Images)

Gianni Versace at his Miami home, 1996.
(Photo by Getty Images)

Versace: The Entertainer

Just as much as Gianni Versace was committed to his craft and dealt with all aspects of the business and fashion label with utmost seriousness, it was quite the contrary when presenting his designs to his audiences. He wanted that the entire viewing experience for his audiences should be fun, memorable and playful.

From introducing a whole new concept of the celebrity front row to infusing his shows with the best music of the time, Versace the genius has been solely responsible for the wonderful melange the contemporary world of fashion is today.

Gianni Versace upheld the ideal of the 90s supermodel and launched many a notable career - from Naomi Campbell to Cindy Crawford and Christy Turlington, every renowned face that made it to major covers around the world. He adorned some of the biggest names in stardom and distinguished people of his time, such as Madonna, Tina Turner, Elton John, Princess Diana of Wales, forging many cherished friendships along the way. By virtue of being recognised as a designer to celebrities, Versace himself became a celebrity of sorts.

For his immense contribution to the fashion industry, Gianni Versace was suitably decorated with numerous awards. He was also feted for his contribution to ballet and theatre and his works have been displayed around prestigious museums such as Chicago's The National Field Museum, London's Royal College of Art, Japan's Kobe City Museum and the Kunstgewerbemuseum in Berlin.

The End of an Era

The aura of Gianni Versace was larger-than-life, in his lifetime and in his death too. His violent death comes across as dramatic as his opulent costume designs and magnificent showmanship. Many news reports of his death from the time, mention the phrase "on the steps of his Miami mansion", indicating a sense of tragedy interlaced with glamour. On the morning of July 15, 1997, Gianni Versace was shot dead by Andrew Cunanan who was on a shooting spree across the US just outside his mansion that he shared with his long-time partner Antonio D'Amico.

Versace's funeral was attended by the who's-who of the celebrity world. It was also indicative of the immense power that Versace commanded as a fashion designer. Newspapers across the world splashed an iconic photograph of a bereaved Princess Diana seated next to a weeping Elton John, indicating a change in order; it was almost akin to the celebrity front row. Only, this time the occasion was solemn and heart-wrenching.

Versace's era was a time much before the advent of social media and Instagram. But, in many ways it was not really far removed from the digital world we live in today. He recognised very early on, the vital role that celebrities played in endorsing the value of a brand (for consumers) as magnificent as his and he did everything possible to 'put it out there' for everyone to see. He once explained why he designed as much as he did and then made sure people saw his work... "You know I talk through my work, and I want to talk more. At the beginning of my career, it was very hard to go up. Now, it's very hard to stay on top. You have to stay there, and I want to stay there so badly. I'm still standing".

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

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“We cannot speak other than
by our paintings”

- Vincent van Gogh



LOVING VINCENT



© GettyImages



“On 27th July 1890, a gaunt figure stumbled down a drowsy high street at twilight in the small French country town of Auvers.

The man was carrying nothing; his hands clasped to a fresh bullet wound leaking blood from his belly. This was Vincent van Gogh, then a little-known artist; now the most famous artist in the world. His tragic death has long been known, what has remained a mystery is how and why he came to be shot. Loving Vincent tells that story.”

In art, there exists a stereotype called the 'tortured artist', who endures a constant state of torment that stems from frustrations or problems with the art itself or other people around. Through the pages of history, there have been a number of tortured artists. But, probably none as famous as Vincent van Gogh, one of the world's most eminent post-impressionist artists who needs little introduction.

Celebrated for his renowned paintings such as Starry Night, Café Terrace at Night, Sunflowers, Wheatfield with Crows among many others, Van Gogh has emerged as quite an oddity since the 19th century. A little-known artist during his lifetime, Van Gogh became truly famous only posthumously. Often regarded to be a social oddball, Van Gogh channeled his energies towards creating almost 800 oil paintings in the last decade of his life.

Interestingly, it was not just his paintings that made him famous, but also his tormented life. Whether it was cutting off his own ear to win back a friend or the fact that he sold only one painting in his entire lifetime, Vincent van Gogh's life was manifested by abject conditions of poverty, mental illness, loneliness and rejection.

While it is widely known that Vincent van Gogh died of a bullet shot in the stomach, what continues to intrigue researchers and fans alike is whether Van Gogh did indeed shoot himself or was in fact shot to his death. Now, a feature film by the name of Loving Vincent (that opened in cinemas internationally in September 2017) explores the life and works of Vincent van Gogh and his mysterious death that shrouds much of his aura. Loving Vincent is unique because it is the world's first fully painted film.

Chaitra Patel invites you to embark on a many-hued celluloid journey of the life and times of Vincent van Gogh and his art.

In 2011, writers Steven Naifeh and Gregory White wrote a biography on Vincent van Gogh, where they explored the possibility of a conspiracy theory, which indicated that the artist did not shoot himself but was instead shot by a 16-year-old local bully, René Secrétan, who is believed to have tormented Van Gogh.

Why Van Gogh would admit to shooting himself continues to remain a mystery, after all these years. Some believe that he might not have wished to make trouble for the neighbourhood upon his death while others feel the glamour of suicide lured him to do so. *Loving Vincent* explores this side of the legendary artist's life, his fondness and closeness to his brother Theo and the incidents that possibly led to his death.

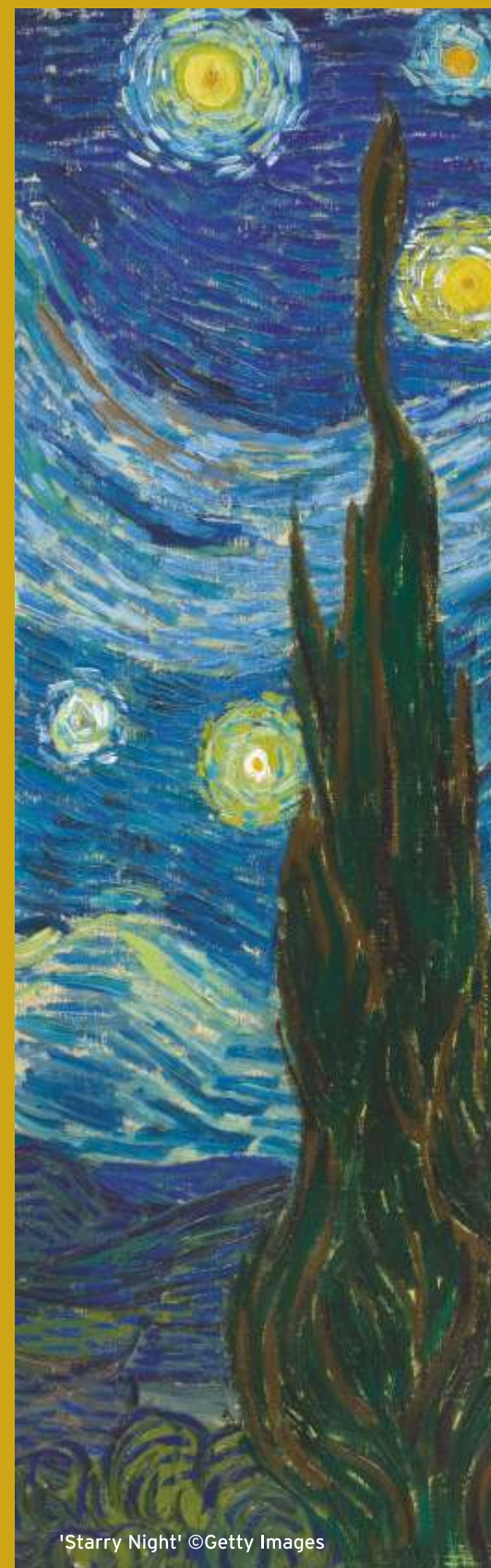
The World's Very First

It's not every day that one comes across a fully painted feature film. It took a team of 125 painters to paint over 65,000 frames on over 1000 canvases, with more than 1300 paintings being discarded during the creative process of almost 6 years. Quite a feat indeed! But, that's not the real reason why the makers of *Loving Vincent* decided to embark on this journey. "The reason we made the film is not because we want to be the first, or that we want to set any records, it is because we believe that you cannot truly tell Vincent's story without his paintings, so we needed to bring his paintings to life", they say.

The dedicated film-maker duo of Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman have creatively used live action sequences and actors to recreate various incidents on specially constructed sets that resemble Van Gogh's paintings. Live action footage was then combined with real paint and computer animation. The resulting effect is nothing short of marvellous - stars shining bright in the night sky, pulsating rivers shimmering as they flow, blowing leaves, clouds, birds, horses and much more, all coming to life and making *Loving Vincent* almost a dreamlike sequence.



'Irises' ©Getty Images



'Starry Night' ©Getty Images



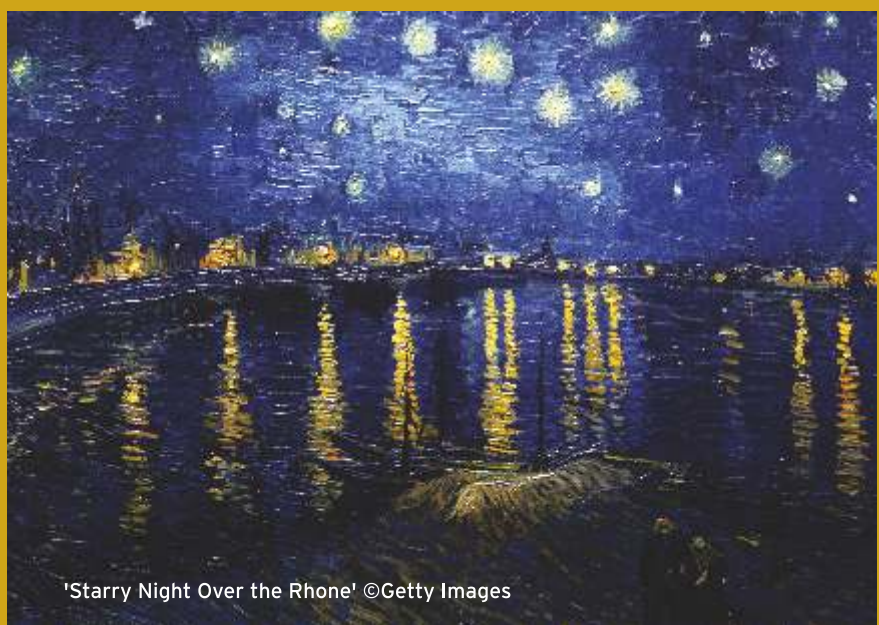
All images © GettyImages



'Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear' ©Getty Images



'The Plain of Auvers' ©Getty Images



'Starry Night Over the Rhone' ©Getty Images



'Café Terrace at Night' ©Getty Images



'Irises' ©Getty Images



'Poppy Field' ©Getty Images



The resulting team of artists have been hugely successful in bringing to life green pastures and abundant landscapes, and the very deft brush strokes as they bristle across the 70-mm screen in typical Van Gogh style.



Bringing Canvas to Life

Every painstakingly created frame in the 94-minute *Loving Vincent* is a pastiche of Van Gogh's numerous canvases. The film makers of this UK-Polish collaboration took on board a team of classically trained artists; Hugh Welchman explained their rationale for doing so because they wished to avoid working with animators who had their personal styles and preferred to work with artists who "were very pure oil painters".

The resulting team of artists have been hugely successful in bringing to life green pastures and abundant landscapes, and the very deft brushstrokes as they bristle across the 70-mm screen in typical Van Gogh style. The film breathtakingly captures scenes from Vincent van Gogh's life through interviews with characters that continued to pop in and out of his life.

The process of transferring these paintings to film was undoubtedly no easy task, leaving the film makers with only 853 paintings on canvas that have been used in the film. These, in addition to some 90 odd paintings that were made a year prior when the creative team had begun the process of re-imagining Van Gogh's paintings into film.

Over the coming years, the film makers plan to make available almost 200 paintings used in the film, for sale. A chosen few have already been sold, prior to the film's opening.

Loving Vincent – An Exhibit

With the film hitting theatres, the oils on canvases too are being exhibited across key museums in Europe. The Noord Brabants Museum in Den Bosch, an hour's train ride from Amsterdam exhibited 120 of the paintings from the film, in January. In addition to the paintings being exhibited here, 19 of the films very well-known paintings, including the renowned *Café Terrace at Night* are being currently showcased at the Kröller Muller Museum in the Netherlands. This compact exhibition is also making the paintings available for immediate hire and takers audiences through the stories behind the scenes and the challenges faced in making the film.

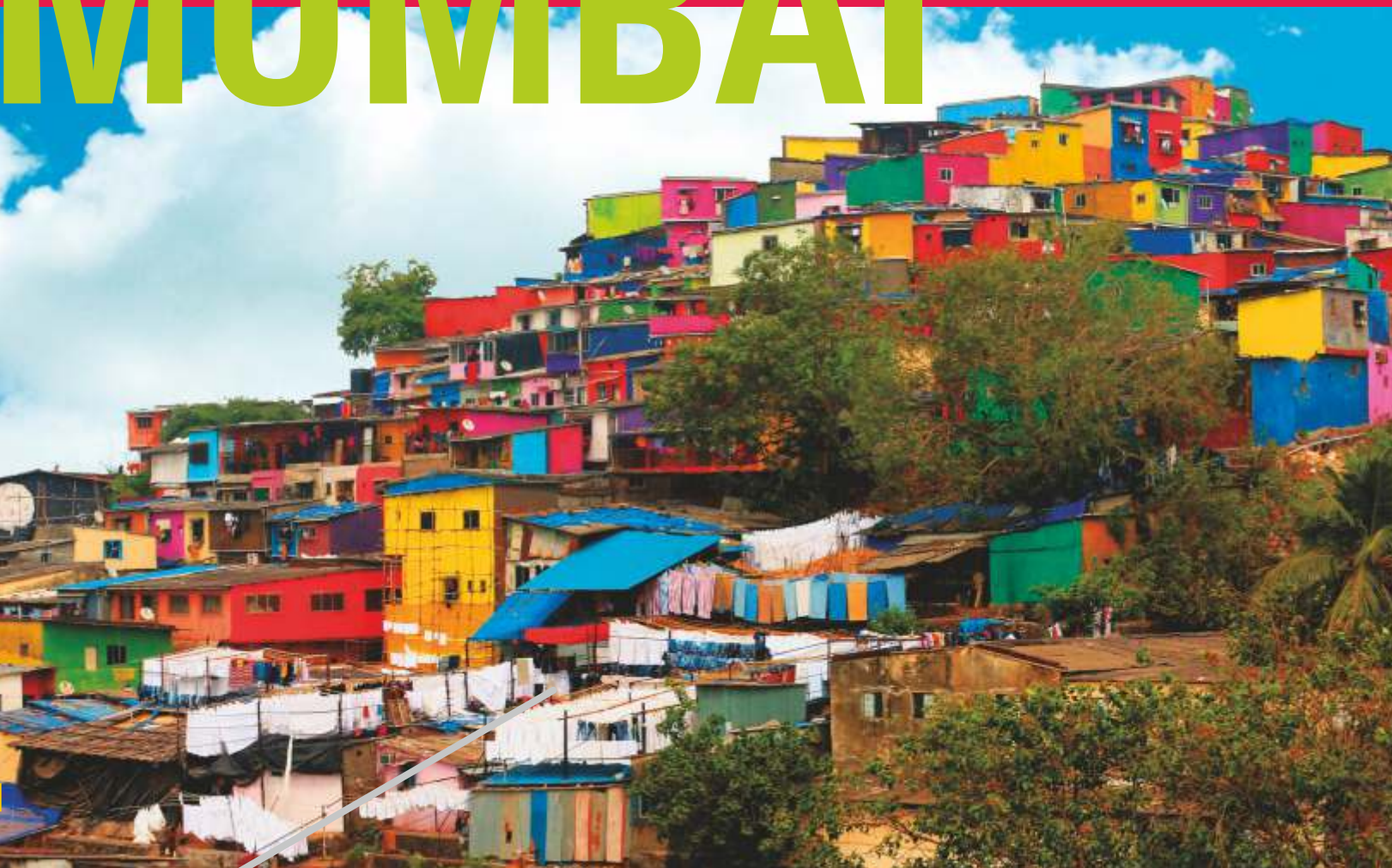
Vincent van Gogh, considered the greatest Dutch painter after Rembrandt, died aged 37 from a self-inflicted gunshot. Or did he, really? While the film tries to delve into this side of his anguished life story and the most famous canvases he painted in the last decade of his life, there lies one undisputable fact; his work remains relevant to artists across the world even today and continues to mesmerise art-lovers the world over.



© GettyImages

VENICE

CHAL RANG DE! MUMBAI



© Chal Rang De Mumbai

The definitions of art are manifold. For some, art is an expression; a language; a change; a revolution. For others, art is an escape; individuality; an exit; a means to scarper. Each of these is accurate for different reasons, but art is reckoned a beauty that does not cease. It is a form of radical expression and gives artists, the freedom to unfold, the freedom to convey. People have set out on a journey to bring change and have chosen art to be the heart of this journey.

Join Bhawika Jethwani, while she sheds light on how ART has become synonymous with urban development in Pune and Mumbai.



Venice, landmark, Burano island, canal, colorful, houses, Italy.
Photo : Gettyimages



Art has continually been used to demonstrate power through intellectual discourse. And, the transformations through art have paved way for empowerment. One of the biggest changes brought about by the power of art, is the reworked face of slum areas. The founders of Favela Painting Foundation, Jeroen Koolhaas and Dre Urhahn, popularly known as Haas&Hahn, have stirred change in some of Rio's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods by introducing them to street art. The duo has transformed the neighbourhoods, with vibrant rainbow colours. "By empowering the people and bringing colour and joy to these people," Haas&Hahn say they hope, rather ambitiously, "to ignite personal and societal change on all levels."

Kampung Pelangi, a slum turned tourist attraction in Indonesia, is proudly called the 'Rainbow Village', since it has been transformed into an artistically beautiful sight-seeing venue. And thanks to art, the economy has already started to shoot-up because of the increasing number of tourists every day. Jalousie, a hillside slum in Haiti of about 45,000 inhabitants, has been painted

vibrantly, under the \$1.4 million project, 'Beauty versus Poverty: Jalousie in Colours'. The local painter Duval Pierre trained and recruited children to help finish the job when government funds started shrinking.

An incredible town, Burano, a group of four small islands in Italy, is held together by assorted colours. The houses evince strong painting trend, with each house painted a different colour from its adjacent house, making for a colourful heritage. It is taken as an inspiration to aesthetically transform the slums in Mumbai and Pune too, where colourful projects such as Chal Range De and Chaan-Daar have undertaken the responsibility of remoulding the face of urban areas, one slum at a time.



Colourful houses at Parma, Italy.
Photo : GettyImages

CHAL RANG DE!

MUMBAI

There is an unfathomable sense of achievement in doing something which makes a sea change and renders growth. And substituting the grey, dark, and desolate settlements of Asalpha village, a neighbourhood in the Ghatkopar suburb of Mumbai, with vibrant, peart and, artistic homes is meritorious. Mumbai's Dedeepya Reddy, the founder of 'Chal Rang De' and the co-founder of digital media agency, Fruitbowl Digital, has set out on a mission to remodel the face of Mumbai's slum areas. She began with Asalpha village in Ghatkopar and fondly superscribes it as the 'Positano of Mumbai'.

Giving these settlements a lick of dramatic pulchritude, the initiative has turned Asalpha into an unriveting beauty and assures to help its residents shape their lives around more lucid perspective. She along with 750 volunteers, painted the exterior walls of houses in Asalpha village in vibrant colours making the residents more involved and responsible. Dedeepya aligned her imagination with an expedient plan, which stretched over a month. Some residents of Asalpha objected, but later, on being shown the renders, they happily gave in to this looming change and helped them with constant support by actively participating in bathing the lifeless walls in bewitching colours.

The project was able to easily garner support from corporates such as Snowcem Paints and Mumbai Metro, and Co. Lab.



Oratory. An informative website and a social media event were created to reap the support from people and get more helping hands. A stupefying response strengthened the motive to transfigure the appearance of these settlements. 750 volunteers were appointed, who with their unmatched ardour, began making change.

Over the 3 days that the team took to transform Asalpha, it learnt a lot about people residing there. Getting better insight about the people led to birthing overt concepts that needed to be incorporated in the artwork. The murals are relevant to the everyday lives of people in Asalpha. Each painting depicts a story or a part of the story. The idea is to convert the walls into a piece of art, one slum at a time. One of the artists of Chal Rang De named her mural 'Chasing Kittens'. This resonates with the lives of children in Asalpha. One can see a lot of children along with kittens running down the narrow lanes. And the mural is, without a hint of doubt, absolutely relatable. Another artist, with his captivating mural conveyed a powerful and effectual message. The painting consists of a person drawing a 'flash', which pertains to the speed of light, on a turtle's shell. This exudes that a person cannot and should not change for the sake of relatability. The true power lies in being your true self.

“Color the community, color the hill, color the entire area. Color has the power to create change. Some would say what difference can a color make? I believe it gives them a sense of joy, an identity and hope that things are going to be okay. Small changes together can make a huge impact.”, says Dedeepya when asked about the motive behind this avant-garde project.



All photos © Chal Rang De

All photos © Chal Rang De





The people of Asalpha are brimming with joy, since the colours on their walls have now been stirred into their lives too. People have been rejuvenated and motivated to bring in bigger changes, which they never saw any possibilities of. The positive force of art has already changed the way the slum dwellers think. As reported by a local resident, men have already started refraining from spitting on the walls. This is one of the biggest changes that was highly anticipated. With the help of art and creativity, residents are expected to be more attuned to societal ideology. The village is now spryer than ever, however, the manoeuvre has not come to a standstill yet. The team of Chal Rang De has decided on promoting this slum as a must-visit place. It has concocted a plan to create curated tours for people who visit Mumbai. Since, the colourful exposure in such an intimate place is commendable, a huge number of visitors are expected to witness this sterling transformation. There are women who cook really well, and can make a living for themselves if they put their cooking skills to a greater use. Dedeepya states that the team will also train local boys to show visitors around. The visitors would get a chance to talk and eat with the local residents of Asalpha. This would create awareness about the issues the residents face every day.

The team at Chal Range De has planned to give the entire city a resplendent make-over in a way that each slum speaks a different story. Dedeepya Reddy believes that Mumbai is a city of Art, Culture, and Heritage and each citizen should get to share the vibe of the city. This tremendous endeavour by Chal Rang De is certainly something to be thankful for, since the idea is 'To Empower Mumbai, One Slum at a Time.'

CHAAN-DAAR PUNE

With a vision to bring about an artistic transformation, the Pune Biennale Foundation and the Panchshil Foundation have taken up an initiative to up-thrust the lifestyle and sustenance of those living in slums. This project is called “Chaan-Daar”, and it could not have been more appropriate since the project exudes the sentiment of both of these foundations who foster a vision of cleanliness and happiness. Hence, the name is based on the idea of 'sundarta se swachta ki oor' (From beauty to cleanliness).

Chaan-Daar focuses on the participation of resident communities and encourages them to create artwork in their neighbourhood. It has been actively supported by the Pune Municipal Corporation and was recently inaugurated on 17th December, 2017 by the renowned actor Jackie Shroff who is known to have supported many such initiatives. It is being developed in the *vasti* (settlement) areas opposite Business Bay, Yerwada along with areas such as Yashwant Nagar, Netaji Nagar, Old Kirkee Gaothan area, encompassing a total population of around 6,000 residents and 1,025 houses that range from shanties to 3-floor redeveloped apartments.

This project is a beautiful picture, painted by the shared vision of Varsha and Atul Chordia of the Panchshil Foundation, backed by the expertise of the Pune Biennale Foundation – a non-profit organisation that has been working to enhance the aesthetic beauty of Pune's public spaces with the confluence of art, architecture and design. In its journey of becoming a flower from a bud, three editions have taken place so far which were themed around “Celebrating Hills”, “Heritage - Yours and Mine”, and “Identity and Self”. The Pune Biennale Foundation has been working on several public art installations and projects related to public spaces to give the city a fresh stroke of modernisation, instilling the need for urban development. Projects like Chaan-Daar, an acclaimed initiative for Placemaking in slum settlements, Pune

Speaking Walls and, The Pedestrian are the major ones that reflect the conundrums and conclusions of social habits and the process of bringing in change. At least 98 biennales (and triennials) are staged worldwide, and the Pune Biennale Foundation is doing its bit. Certain areas of the city have already been seen awash in art and colours. It brings together traditional art forms with a contemporary take on them, giving a platform to the artists in and outside Pune, to showcase their art and introduce people to their brilliance of communicating through the medium of art.

The aesthetic agenda of Chaan-Daar promises to bring forth the creative and artistic importance and also addresses the seriousness and reality of the local issues. People when encouraged to participate in creating art around them, confront the lack of social awareness and are taught about the need for maintaining the balance of a healthy life. It involves representing art in a contextual and relatable form, which helps people come face to face with the coherence and criticality of everyday issues. Artworks may include wall murals, sculptures, paintings, and elements of urban design. The lanes of Pune are being made the centre of attention and a treat to the eyes for the residents and passers-by, under this project. Various artistic concepts have been incorporated in the streets and the appeal has significantly been taken many notches higher. One of the completed artworks in a lane under this project witnesses the miscellany of modern pop colours and traditional elements from the region. It is believed that art has the colour of expression. Hence, the streets painted under this project are being seen draped in colours.

A painting or a play of colours is more than what it seems. It is synonymous to the state of being and is a vision of what one desires. Hence, Chaan-Daar is working towards the self-realisation of people who are so far, victims of ignorance. It is concentrating on channelising the energies of local residents, by seeking their contribution for the development of the slum and settlement areas with the help of artists, architects and urban planners in creating beautiful spaces. It promises to lend people a sense of community ownership and responsibilities. This would stir the need for activities to create a beautiful environment, clean surroundings, and a happy community.



CHAAN-DAAR



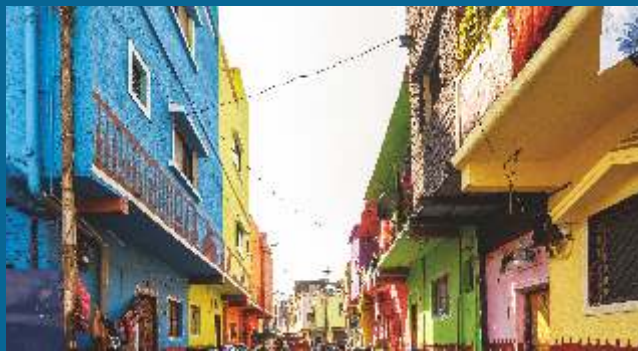
All photos © The Panchshil Foundation.

The team of curators of Chaan-Daar is ably led by Mrs. Varsha Chordia, Mrs. Ashwini Pethe and Dr. Kiran Shinde. They have associated their vision of creating a healthy and clean environment for people to dwell in, through the medium of art and creativity, since they believe that these aesthetic interventions would drive people to take ownership of a healthy social environment. Ashwini Pethe, Managing Director of the Pune Biennale Foundation believes that this project will bring out positive changes in the behavioural pattern of residents

since it would give them the opportunity to open up to the vast horizons of healthy and responsible living. Rallying her support, Varsha Chordia believes that this may also see an end to spitting and littering in public space, embedding of a vision for artistic development amongst children, and more participation in future improvement programs.

The project is inspired from the artistic interventions in the urban slums of Indonesia. The clean and inviting

ambience has made people socially available and responsible. In the case of Chaan-Daar, Dr. Vishwajit Kadam, President of Pune Biennale Foundation is hopeful that the accomplishment of the project will create a model of successful community engagement that can be followed across different cities in India. This project can be looked upon as an urban development strategy and has the potential to create a wave of development in slums across India.



Journey of Beautification

If visualised carefully, one can find art in every grain of the earth. And the artistic indulgence of Chaan-Daar is inspired from the cultural and minimal design elements of this city. The painted walls liberate the essence of unmatched culture. However, the asymmetrical and unorganised settlements sprawled across specific regions are the reason the streetscapes appear visually crowded. The curatorial team had to put an immense amount of

thought into this project, so as not to add to the existing visual chaos. They visualised the bigger picture to come out as powerfully artistic street art. The artwork aligned with smaller yet detailed design elements, is a successful outcome of the extensive and thought upon work of artists and the curatorial team. The visual clues were taken from traditional Maharashtrian elements of design such as wooden balcony railings, Deoli - niches in the walls, sari borders, Rangoli patterns and so on. The simple and relatable design elements incorporated in the beautification of streets encouraged people to participate in this cleanliness and transformation program.

This project does not only bring to bear the essence of cleanliness, but also bridges the gap between people and urban awareness by the concept of Placemaking. So far, many urban spaces have been converted into more useful ones, giving the people a chance to come together as a community. In the first lane of demonstration that leads to the neighbourhood's Ganesh temple, abstract artistic elements such as *samai* (lamps), diyas, flower garlands have been used, which create an enclosure with the ambience of a small temple precinct. The team worked carefully on the scale and proportion of the artistic elements in order to keep the existential beauty of the façade intact and yet create a marvel.

Pune-based artists such as Abhinav Kafare, Sujata Usalkar and Sumit Abnave, Ulhas Kagade, Harishchandra Wanjale along with some local residents were selected by the curatorial team to work on this art project. Sujata Usalkar and Sumit Abnave helped inculcate intelligible and articulate design and patterns to bring symmetry and coherence in the streetscape, with the use of relatable illustrations on the façade. With the backdrop of the silhouette of the *samai* and colourful *shikhar*, the Ganesh temple has become the centre of attraction and reflects artistic lustre. Another lane starting from the main road leading inside the *vasti*, is being given a new face with a couple of selfie points by artists like Abhinav Kafare, Maialen Bergara, Gaston Zabala from Bilbao, Spain. A concept of wall of fame is being executed by artist Harishchandra Wanjale along with children in this community, and aims to make people feel comfortable, which would encourage their participation. Because at the end of the day, the local residents are the ones who are responsible for the consistent growth and development.

A wave of cultural relatability, with the use of Rangoli patterns, sari borders, and lanterns to embellish the walls and streets has altered the perspective of local residents. Ulhas Kagade and his team members - Manoj Pawar, Shubham Bhardwaj and, Satyam Bhardwaj have contributed in creating the old wada facade on Sanskritik Bhavan. The cultural dialect aligned with the concept of this project, has brought a sense of belonging within the local groups and is looked upon as a major step in the complete transformation of the face of slum and settlement areas in Pune. Art as a facilitator of growth and development, has led to positive change, and people are looking forward to more, with evident excitement.



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Canfly

© Mahika Mirpuri



Designer Maheka Mirpuri hosted the 5th instalment of her annual charity gala and fund-raiser.

Christened 'Canfly' the fund-raiser was in aid of the Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH) under the aegis of Maheka's foundation, Mcan. Mcan is involved with providing financial assistance to the underprivileged who are fighting a battle with head and neck cancer at TMH.

Pune's very verdant yoopune played host to the charity gala. Meet The City reports.



Maheka Mirpuri

The MCan Foundation was set up by Maheka Mirpuri in 2013 on a personal note, when she lost her father and her brother-in-law to cancer, in a short span of a year. Ever since, Maheka has launched a crusade to fight cancer. The realisation that fighting cancer in India can be a huge financial drain on families, got Maheka thinking about how difficult it must be for the less privileged to fight this disease. She therefore set up the MCan Foundation in aid of the Tata Memorial hospital (TMH), for providing financial assistance to the underprivileged towards cure for cancer as a whole and cancer of the head and neck in particular.

The MCan foundation has been established with the dedicated purpose of enriching human experience with hope, strength and joy and to help patients who were not only dejected from medication and hospitalisation, but also aware that their life span is gradually declining.

Over a span of 4 years the foundation has successfully raised over Rs. 2.5 crores, which in turn has benefited close to 200 patients fighting this deadly disease. While this number is a very small drop in an ocean where almost 5000 to 6000 patients each year need financial support for their treatment, it is an intent and a step forward in the right direction. In the past, the foundation has involved many significant citizens to be its voice in spreading awareness. Celebrities such as Anil Kapoor, Vivek Oberoi, Kunal Kapoor, Soha Ali Khan and Manisha Koirala have pitched in to help those who not only have to fight with the deadly disease but also struggle financially to deal with a bottomless pit for cancer cure.

The Canfly charity gala comprised of a thoughtfully put together collection of art, jewellery, fashion and experiences. These myriad designs went under the hammer at a live auction, in a bid to raise funds for a noble cause. While the doctors present at the event spoke about the disease and its rapid spread especially in India, the show was also attended by the loved ones of survivors who shared their experiences of dealing with the deadly 'C'.

For this event, Maheka personally put together a special collection, which is inspired by the butterfly. Stirred by the struggles that a butterfly endures, before it emerges as a creature of beauty, this collection focuses on the butterfly as a symbol of change.

A Note About the Collection

The aesthetic blend of colours that adorn the dainty wings of the butterfly is reflected in Maheka's choice of the prismatic palette in her collection - from flame oranges to hazelnut browns, from dusty rose to rustic kales, primrose yellows to tinted purples and psychedelic pinks to misty greys. The collection also incorporates a variety of weaves and textures such as rich woven silks, Chanderi, chiffon, mul, tulle, Banarasi and Ikat. Blotchy gold embellishments, necklines dotted with bugle beads in glistening tones and antique embroideries showcase stellar craftsmanship. Tonal dressing in textures, tasselled trims on exaggerated sleeves, wide flared *shararas* with fitted high slit *kurtas*, the shoulder bone look accentuated by the sheer necklines of bugled sleeve blouses teamed with delicate chiffon tasselled saris, floor length flirtatious flared *kurtas* with mul scarfs,



Canfly

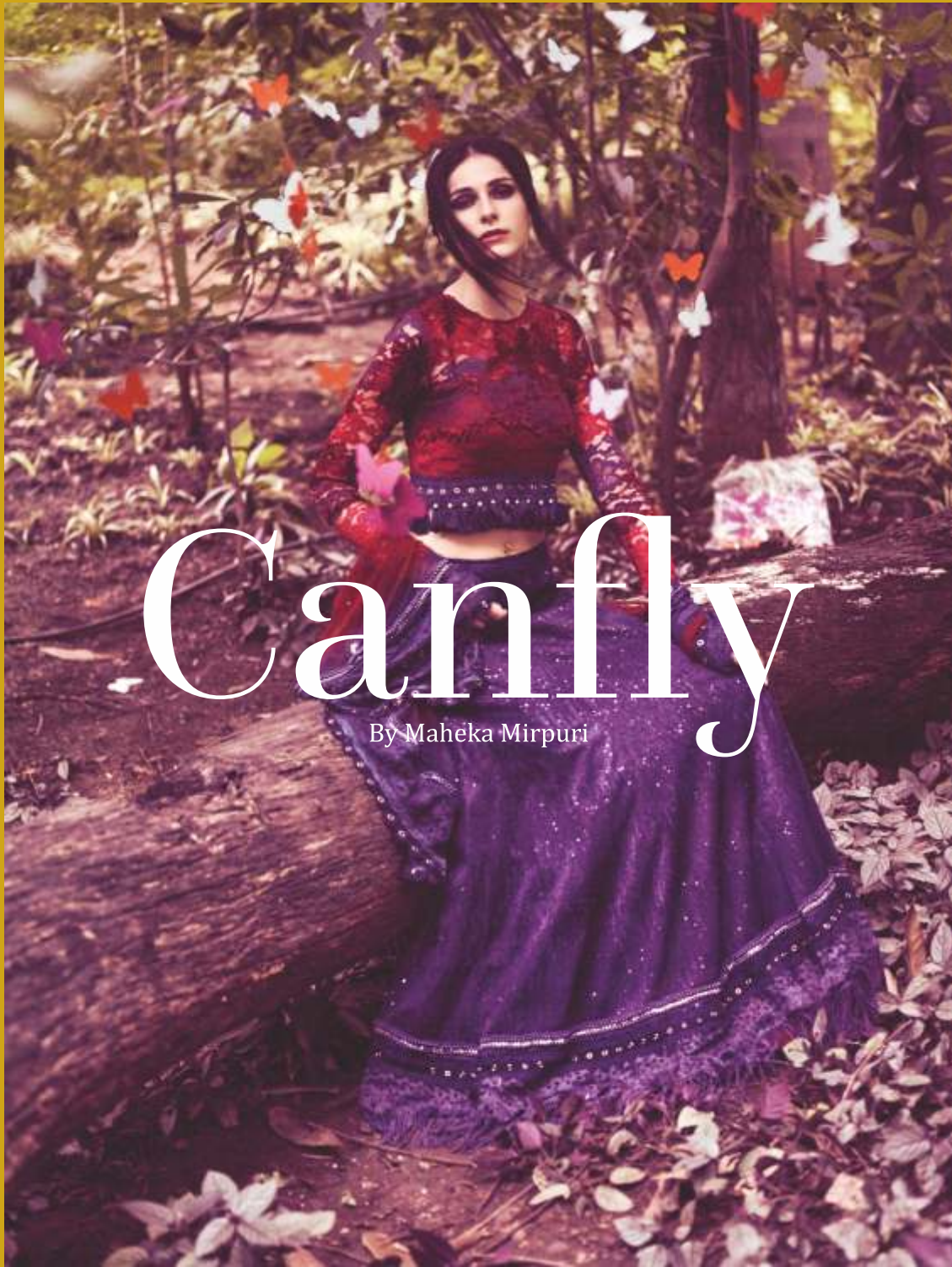
By Maheka Mirpuri

hand painted short bohemian colourful dresses, fun floral printed *dupattas* with contrast Ikat *churidars* and bodycon lace gowns, all spell the mood and display the fondness of being one with nature.

The sale proceeds from Canfly 2017 will be used to help the less fortunate, whose lives could be saved or transformed with just a little gesture of compassion and generosity. "MCan's objective is to help patients in their metamorphosis from mortality to life as much as it can, to help them realise that just when you think your lessons could not be any harder, you could have a butterfly moment, where everything falls gracefully into place. I request everyone to come forward and help in trying to make this a cancer-free world. Let's get together so they CANFLY," said Maheka on a concluding note.



All photos © Maheka Mirpuri.



Canfly

By Maheka Mirpuri



All photos © Maheka Mirpuri.



SPAZIO
SPACES

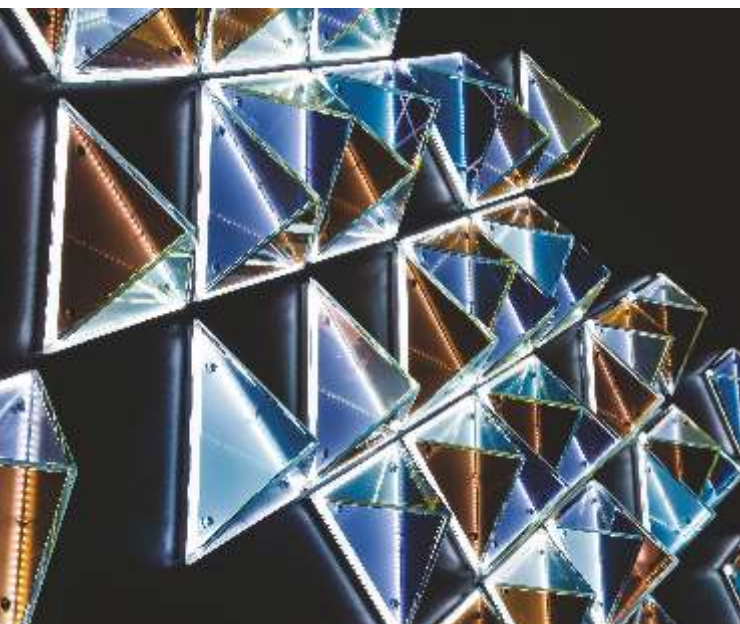
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SANS SOUCI

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Dynamic,
Symphony of Glass!

Delicate yet flamboyant, pure yet fiery, elegant yet glossy - welcome to the enigmatic world of beautiful contradictions woven by Sans Souci. A Czech designer and producer of decorative lighting fixtures, glass objects and architectural features, Sans Souci creates thrilling experiences from glass! Each and every creation of Sans Souci is a fascinating work of art. Visually stimulating, original and timeless, the fixtures have a distinctive lightness and grandeur, with the ability to leave everyone awestruck.

Aastha Dogra explores the mystical and stunning world of Sans Souci!



Embracing the heritage of glass-making in the Czech Republic, drawing on the experience of past generations of glass-makers, Sans Souci has come a long way with its exquisite collection of Contemporary Lighting, Classical Lighting and Glass in Architecture. All works of Sans Souci are produced in northern Bohemia, a world-renowned glass-making region, from where they then travel to the most luxurious destinations in the world. Today, Sans Souci products adorn the most prestigious palaces, hotels, yachts, shopping centers and luxury residences.

Mastering the craft that had been handed down from generation to generation, along with foolproof production methods, have ensured that Sans Souci products turn out unique, enduring and impressive. Besides traditional production processes, the emphasis is on continuous innovation in design and production, culminating in a collection of modern pieces.



All photos © Sans Souci

The endless possibilities of shapes, colours, optical effects or combinations with other materials are explored by Sans Souci's design team. The designers bring to life their visualisations, which become an integral part of the surroundings upon installation. Creating tailored products, in line with clients' visions, wishes and requirements is Sans Souci's specialty.

Spazio, India's largest multi-brand luxury furniture store, brings to you the latest "Diversity Collection" by Sans Souci. The giant and massive pieces in this collection exploit the optical strength of glass, while the delicate and subtle ones, its fragile beauty. The intricate creations are arranged in smooth as well as disordered compositions and adapted to reflect the possibilities of the interiors and imagination.



SANS SOUCI DIVERSITY COLLECTION



Symphony
by Jiří Křišica

Nano metal coating technology is combined with a cut to alter a crystal tube. As the coating is gradually cut off, a subtle gradient emerges, which is an impressive decorative feature from up close.

Dimensions: Dia 1070 x H 2800 mm



Flash
by Martin Lukačka

A solitary pendant looks impressive on a curtain of cut beads – a regal jewel that is the masterpiece of a hand cutter. The combination of glittering crystal and golden amber gives rise to a flaming swarm, which imbues the surroundings with sparkling energy.

Dimensions: Dia 700 x H 2550 mm / One component Dia 200 x H 1200 mm

Loops
by Jiří Křišica

The organic loop is handmade with a living substance that can be twisted, cut or extended. Every piece is an original that creates a disordered cluster lit by an effective metal coating.

Dimensions: Dia 1400 x H 3100 mm



Bowls
by Katarína Kotuláčová

A simple shape and the ever-attractive contrast is created by the smooth hand-blown bowls rotated at ninety degrees and suspended with the convex parts facing one another, to create a wave that is very elegant yet also pleasantly disordered.

Dimensions: W 3300 x H 1350 (+ strings) x L 1500 mm



All photos © Sans Souci



Skittles
by Pavel Výtisk

The decorative wall sculpture is a harmonious complement to the 'Bowls' light fixture. The black and bronze bowls can be arranged on a wall in unimaginable ways with this beautiful supplement.

Dimensions: W 3300 x H 2199 mm



Kerchiefs
by Katarína Kotuláčová

Finding inspiration in delicacy, the wavy leaves flutter about arbitrarily above the ground so as to create an atmosphere of pleasant carelessness and ease. Their delicacy can be highlighted by pastel tones or accentuated by a forceful, sharp contrast. The Kerchief components are made of hand-blown and hand-shaped glass. Milky white looks great with trendy rose gold or traditional golden metal coating.

Dimensions: W 1300 x H 2800 x D 1000 mm

Frosty Leaves
by Jiří Křišica

A truly emotive experience is created with the timeless technique of glassblowing. The leaves that make use of the clear crystal substance appear even more beautiful when in a mass, highlighting the piece's unparalleled optics.

Dimensions: Dia 1060 x H 2500 mm



Aurora
by Katarína Kotuláčová

Hand-blown glass components are combined in a celestial play, imitating the fascinating phenomenon that originates in polar areas and is very rare in our latitudes. The light sources are programmed to put on a pulsating show of different-coloured fans, rays or drapes. The lighting installation can be quickly and easily controlled by iPod.

Dimensions: W 3000 x H 4000 x D 4500 mm



Sans Souci fixtures lend a sense of firmness, luxury and delicacy to the interiors. From designer light fixtures of tiny proportions to giant lighting objects, glass in its many forms is used to create the unimaginable. At Sans Souci, glass is considered a living substance that has a tremendous potential for decorations, visual effects and setting the desired mood of a place. Sans Souci has introduced boundless options of decorative glass, adorning the interiors from the floor to the ceiling, to make an enticing, illusionist and fascinating style statement.



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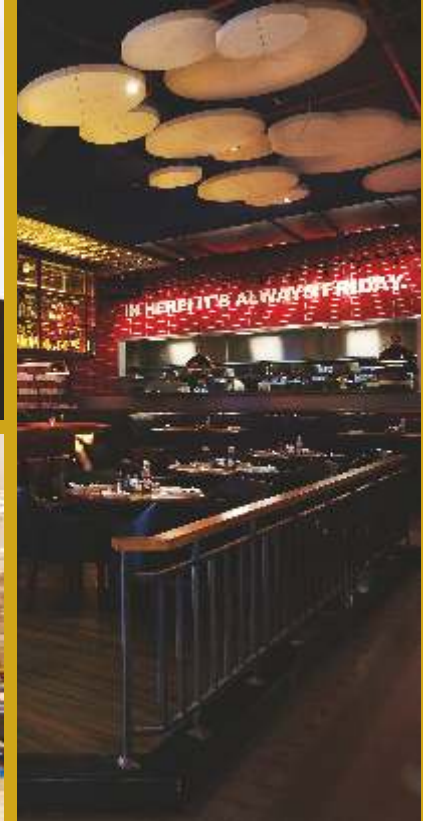
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THE PAVILLION

PUNE'S MOST PREMIUM SHOPPING DESTINATION

“Whoever said that money can't buy happiness,
simply didn't know where to go shopping” – Bo Derek

Luckily for us in Pune, that's not quite the case. The Pavillion, Pune's most recent entrant in the world of retail magic has been enthralling the city's dandy shoppers. High-street fashion, food and lifestyle, The Pavillion is the perfect ploy for a family day out or a brunch with friends followed by a shopping spree. And, if it's the magic of the silver screen that allures you, The Pavillion's cinematic marvel - the in-house 6-screen PVR Icon is absolutely the jewel in the crown.

Chaitra Patel tells you how a day spent at The Pavillion can turn into a day well-spent.



All Photos © The Pavillion.

Until a few months ago, for Puneites living in the central and western neighbourhoods of Pune, going shopping to the mall meant travelling across the “other side of the river”. Family entertainment and outings or shopping sprees would then be restricted only to the weekend. But, not anymore. Not since the heart of Pune, Senapati Bapat Road transformed into the city's most ideal retail destination, with the arrival of The Pavillion. Hardly a few months old, and The Pavillion is already raising the bar of fashion and lifestyle experiences in Pune quite a few notches higher.

For the developers of The Pavillion - Panchshil Realty, one of India's finest luxury real estate brands, the mall was a natural extension of their strategy to offer a wholesome entertainment experience to Pune's discerning audience. And, wholesome the experience certainly is! From the moment you step into The Pavillion until the time you leave, the mall is an experience to behold.

An elegantly designed atrium greets you as you make your way to the 130-odd stores housed in the mall. From a design point of view, The Pavillion like all things true to Panchshil, radiates an aura of luxury and fine taste. Designed to be an extension of the JW Marriott Pune at the International Convention Centre, The Pavillion certainly makes the mark in a bid to be a one-stop destination for the finest in Indian and international branded shopping, dining and entertainment.

Flaunt Your Style

At the heart of this very trendy retail haven lies the perfect ploy to get visitors in the mood to indulge. The whopping 4 lakh square feet of The Pavillion makes sure to lure you into a magical world of international high-street fashion with brands such as Forever 21, Vero Moda, UCB, Nautica among others. If it's something more resplendent that you seek, then a visit to Swarovski for some fine crystal jewellery is a must. If it's watches that you plan on buying, the luxury brand Tissot offers a wide and elegant selection of its signature styles in men's and women's timepieces.

One of the largest stores at The Pavillion is Lifestyle, spread over three levels of the mall. Lose yourself amidst a myriad selection of international and Indian apparel brands on the first two levels. A visit



to the third level at Home Centre, Lifestyle's home décor section will leave you spellbound, with the sheer variety of elegant options in crockery, home linen and décor.

For footwear, a visit to Dune, DC Shoes, Clarks or Woodland should do the trick just as the Sunglass Hut for striking sunglasses. Your visit to The Pavillion is not complete without checking out some of the international labels here such as Gas, Steve Madden, U. S. Polo Assn., Superdry, Calvin Klein, Gant, Rare Rabbit, as well as the luxury lifestyle brand Shaze. For some sporty action, do check out the Nike, Sketchers and Puma stores too.

A Celebration of Taste

Every bout of shopping calls for some culinary indulgence. Notably, it's not just clothing and lifestyle brands that set the dazzling mood at The Pavillion. Some of the best food and beverage brands in India and the world too delight shoppers all day, with their tantalising dishes. The food court is the place to unwind, when you have tired yourself from all the retail indulgence.

The food court at The Pavillion is unlike any other; a refreshing departure from the standard norm at other malls, where it (food court) is housed at the top-most level. Here, at The Pavillion, the food court occupies one half of the ground level, just as soon as you alight from the elevators or the parking, ensuring easy accessibility for all the visitors to the mall. It's not just the brands that are unique here, but also the actual design and layout of the food court, which sets it apart from any other. The contemporary and vibrant interiors bathed in soft lights make the space very inviting while the actual zoning and layout creates pockets of themed experiences.

Panchshil's vision and philosophy of 'bringing the best of the world to Pune' is not just restricted to the lifestyle brands housed here but also extends to the food court. And, this is amply seen as you tickle your taste buds with Turkish and Mediterranean delicacies at Turkish Delight or various aromatic biryanis from Jamawali Biryani. For some Italian fusion, the indulgent bites at Desiano are a must try, while Indian Zaiqaa will enthrall you with its *desi* fare. Chota Bite by Pune's legendary Goodluck Café offers its famous staples teamed with a cup of hot *chai*, just as other popular favourites



All Photos © The Pavillion.



such as Subway, Chaat Bazar, Pizza Hut and KFC, satisfy hungry shoppers. And, when thirst beckons, you can wash down all the culinary delicacies with a refreshing bottle of milkshake from Keventers. The many wonders of a culinary journey continue at The Pavillion as you take a pitstop at the Pune Baking Co. for some freshly brewed coffee paired with pies or sandwiches.

Ushering in the weekend just got more exciting now, with the American casual dining restaurant TGI Fridays. The restaurant, located on the second floor of the mall offers a fine spread of American and Mexican fare, teamed with their signature cocktails and house draught beer.

The Pavillion is also soon going to unveil one of the world's best-loved brands in scrumptious buns, Papparoti, which will offer the most delectable and crunchy-top buns along with an array of beverages.

Celluloid Outings

Your day at The Pavillion just got sweeter with an opulent 6-screen PVR Icon multiplex! The first PVR Icon in Pune, the multiplex is equipped with 4k projections and Dolby ATMOS surround system that together enrich the cinema viewing experience. The stairways leading up to the cinemas have tall, deep steps with rich stone finish that accentuates the sense of cinematic grandeur. A magnificent lobby space with chandeliers, classic wall art, leather recliners that allow you to enjoy the movie in great comfort, all done up in signature PVR style, and you know in an instant that your movie-watching experience will never be the same again.

A Fulfilling Experience

Lounge about the mall at a leisurely pace as you browse through the sumptuous offerings here. Grab a cup of coffee or indulge in some serious window-shopping, the choice is yours. The Pavillion also plans to host a variety of festivals such as the Brew Fest that was Pune's first-ever roof-top beer festival featuring seven of the city's popular breweries. Either way, we promise you that a visit to The Pavillion will be an entirely fulfilling experience.



Donald Trump Jr. - Pune Visit



Varsha and Atul Chordia with Donald Trump Jr.



Dr. B. Ravi Pillai with Donald Trump Jr.



Raja and Sheetal Navani with Donald Trump Jr.



Atul and Sagar Chordia with Donald Trump Jr. at Trump Towers Pune

Towering over Pune – Trump Towers Pune

On his recent visit to India in February, Donald Trump Jr., took some time off to visit the city and inaugurate Tower B of Trump Towers Pune.

A landmark edifice in the heart of Pune in Kalyani Nagar, Trump Towers Pune is a glorious testament to modern lifestyles and contemporary architecture. And, the launch of Tower B of this iconic structure proved to be just as befitting as the legacy it bears. Amidst much excitement and packed schedules, Donald Trump Jr. inaugurated Tower B on February 21, 2018 in Pune, in the presence of Mr. Atul Chordia, Chairman - Panchshil Realty, Mr. Sagar Chordia, Director - Panchshil Realty and guests in attendance.

Speaking on the occasion, Donald Trump Jr had some very inspiring words about India's first Trump-branded residences, Trump Towers Pune. "Exceeding all expectations is a key pillar of our vision across all Trump properties. This is reflected in Trump Towers Pune, in its design, aesthetics, and building practices. It is a true masterpiece of architecture and innovation in luxury living", is how Don Jr. described this architectural wonder.

The memorable evening at Trump Towers also played host to the first residents of Tower B - Dr. B. Ravi Pillai, Managing Director, RP Group of Companies, Mr. Nitin Desai, Managing Director, Desai Brothers, and Mrs. Sheetal Navani, who were all accorded a warm welcome to their new home by Donald Trump Jr.

The launch and customary speeches were soon followed by guests and members of the press joining in for a delectable high tea, speckled with delightful conversations. An evening well spent indeed, befitting the arrival of a splendid landmark!



Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla, Donald Trump Jr., Sagar Chordia and Dr. Parvez Grant



Jackie Shroff with Donald Trump Jr.



Amit Bhosale with Donald Trump Jr.



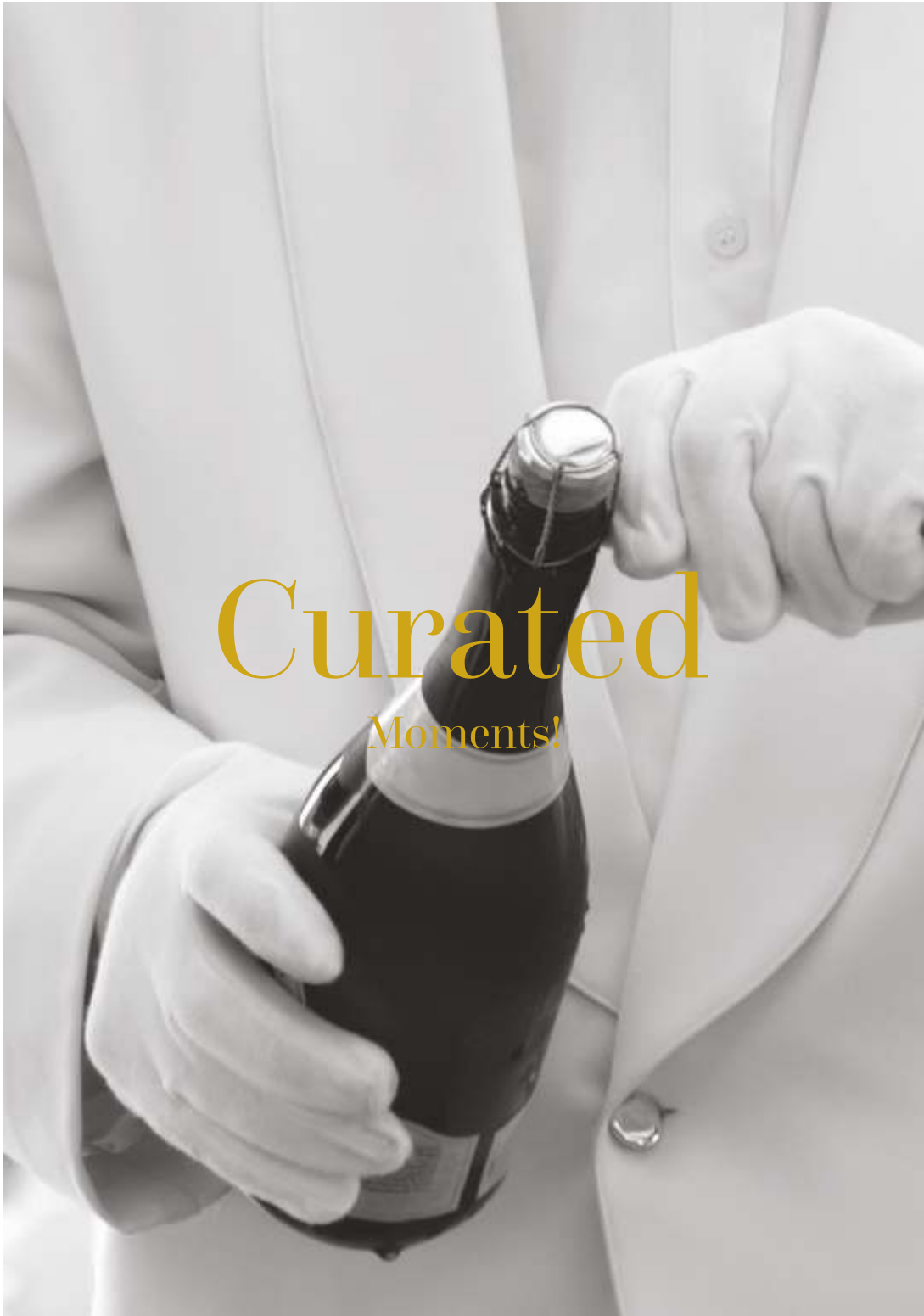
Sejal Firodia, Donald Trump Jr., Prasan Firodia and Atul Chordia



Zavaray Poonawalla, Donald Trump Jr., Yohan and Michelle Poonawalla



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