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CITY

Pune Through

The Senses

VOLUME 11 / MAY-JUNE 2016



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An architectural rendering of two modern skyscrapers, Trump Towers Pune, set against a dramatic twilight sky with scattered clouds. The taller building on the left is a slender tower with a glass facade, its interior lights glowing through the windows. The shorter building on the right is a more compact, rectangular tower, also with a glass facade and illuminated interiors. Both buildings are situated behind a lush, green landscape with trees and shrubs. In the background, a city skyline is visible, including several other high-rise buildings. The overall scene is a high-quality architectural visualization.

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Pune Through
The Five Senses

*Travel towards Light by Prathamesh Dixit
Cover Photograph by Shrey Chauhan*



Following the success of our last issue that was a celebration of all things Pune, we have decided to take on that very theme (a Part II, if you will), but with a different approach. Everyone has heard of that all-too familiar adage, "A picture is worth a thousand words".

We're quite literally taking "a look" at Pune, at its environs, its people, and its institutions through photographs. To make it even more interesting, we're experiencing the city through the 5 senses of sight, smell, touch, taste, and sound. We have attempted to bring to you some of the most beautiful scenes and events from this wonderful city, and its colourful tapestry of everyday life. Our goal was to produce a memorable snapshot of Pune, with sights that will resonate in the hearts of every Puneekar.

Join us, in our April-May issue, as we take a stroll through the streets of Pune and capture the city in its various hues and moods.

ATUL CHORDIA

Chief Editor

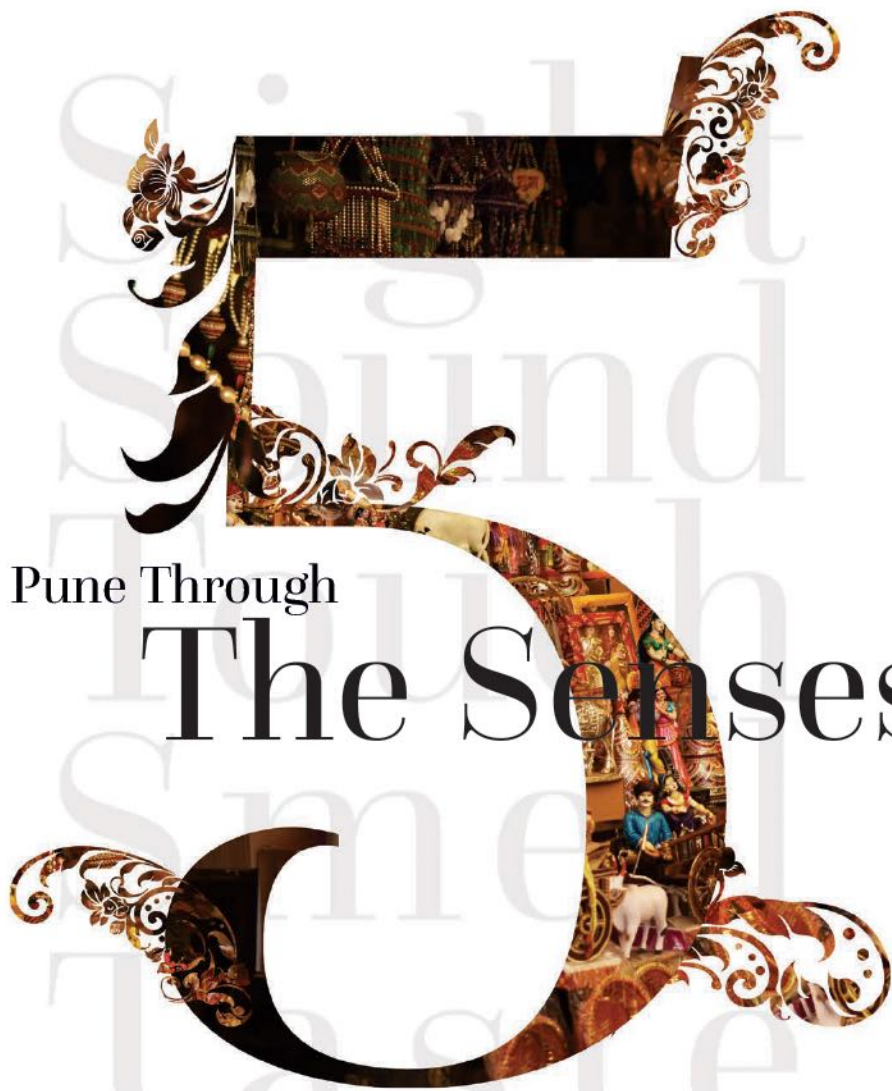
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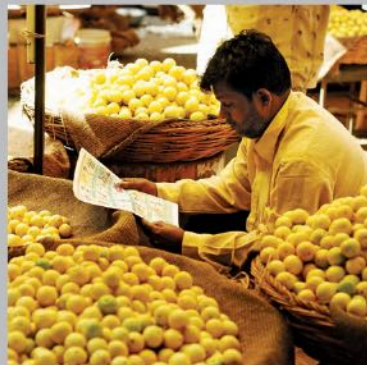
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The Senses





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Sight

The Norwegian poet and novelist Tarjei Vesaas in his book 'The Boat in the Evening', famously wrote, "almost nothing need be said when you have eyes". Indeed, our eyes are the most commonly used body organs from the very minute we are born; new born babies gaze at dotting faces hovering over them through their awe-struck eyes, as they try comprehending their new world. Our world would not have been such a beautiful place, but for our sense of sight.



Sight is undoubtedly the most dominant sense we use to experience our world and life around us.

From our waking hours to bedtime, our eyes prompt us to create wonderful photographic memories that last a lifetime - blue skies and green hills, the colours of the rainbow, and flowers in bloom, cityscapes, and delectable food too that our eyes lure us to eat.

Pune, through the sense of sight offers a magnificent bouquet of textures and hues, interwoven so delicately that it provides a perfect glimpse into the culture of the city. We invite you to experience this chaotic metropolis

through our eyes.





The whizzing lines of light on the Mumbai-Pune expressway.

Officially known as the Yashwantrao Chavan Mumbai Pune Expressway, it is India's first six-lane concrete, high-speed, access controlled tolled expressway. It gives travellers between the two cities of Mumbai and Pune a much-needed and safer alternative than the old and congested Mumbai-Chennai National Highway (NH 4).



One Foggy Morning
by Shrey Chauhan

Winters in Pune are fondly referred to as "Gulabi Thandi" (rosy winter) for a good reason. They are temperate, especially in comparison with the bitter coldness of the winters of North India. The average day temperature hovers at around 20° - 24° C, while the nights are cooler with the mercury dipping to as low as 5° - 8° C.

The many "tekdis" or hillocks of Pune offer wonderful early morning views of the fog-kissed city.

Smiling Varkari

Vitthal or Vithoba, also considered as Shri Krishna, an incarnation of Vishnu, is worshipped in nearly all of Maharashtra. The worshippers of Vitthal perform a pilgrimage to Pandharpur, the main centre of worship of Vitthal.

© Aslam Saiyad / Alamy Stock Photo



Porter carrying luggage at railway station, Pune, India

© Dinodia Photos/Alamy

Coolies or Porters are a trademark of any Indian railway station. The horde of red-shirted men clambering on to serve disembarking travellers is an all-too familiar sight to many. But sadly due to the invention of the wheeled suitcase, the numbers of these industrious porters are on the decline in the last 15 or 20 years. In an effort to help them cope with the changing times, the Suryadatta Group of Institutes have recently trained the 170-odd porters at the Pune railway station, in the basics of spoken English by experience trainers at an open classroom on Platform No. 1.



Street full of Colours
by Rupesh Jadhav

While Pune continues to expand and forge ahead with the times, one can still experience the city's old world charm in its many bylanes and *peths*. In 'Old Pune' you can see crumbling *wadas* - which were the traditional residential form of Maratha architecture, evolved under the reign of Peshwas. Its style borrowed from Mughal, Rajasthan, and Gujarat architecture, with local construction techniques.

Names of the Fallen Heroes of First World War

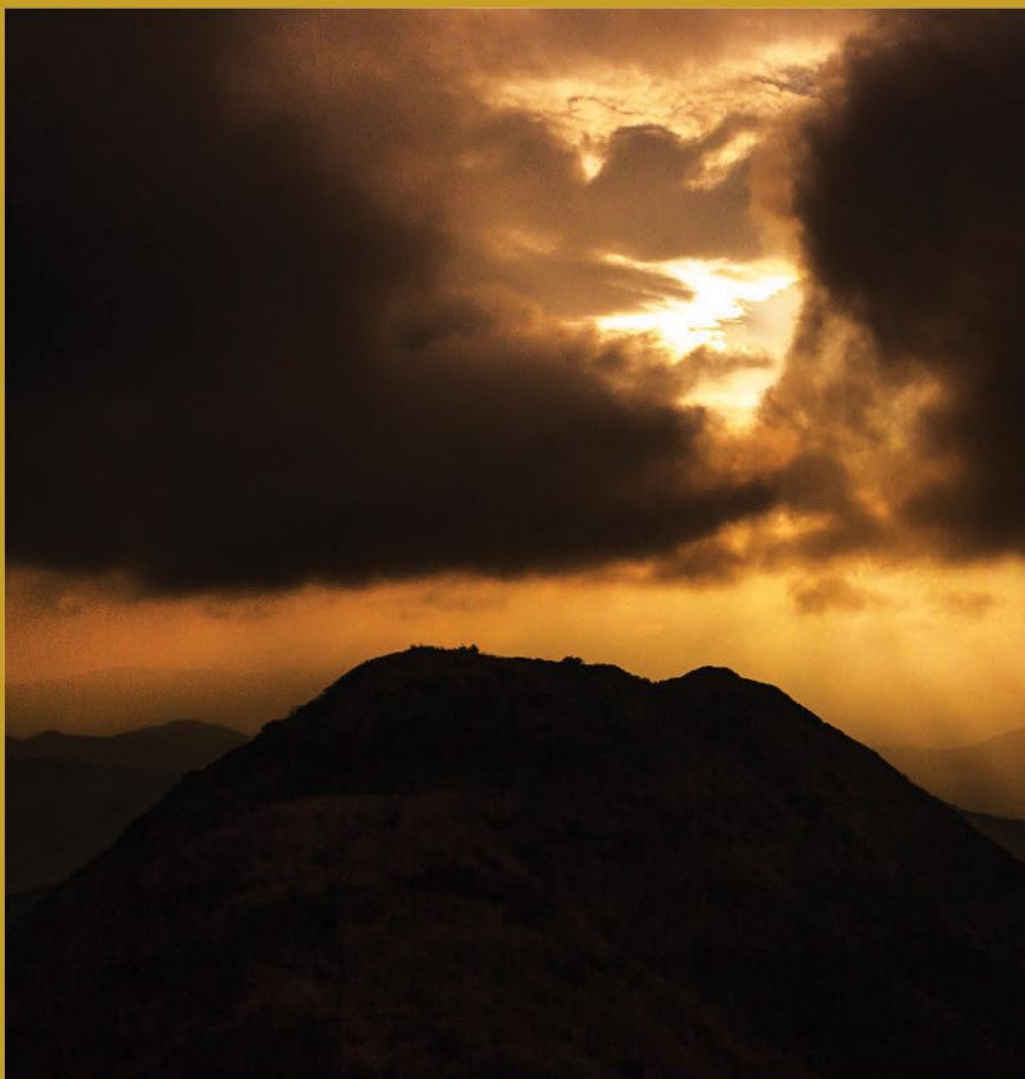
by Kushal Das

The Kirkee War Cemetery was created to receive Second World War graves from the western and central parts of India where their permanent maintenance could not be assured. The cemetery contains 1,668 Commonwealth, 1 Polish and 1 American burials of the Second World War and 7 non-war burials. In addition, 629 First World War servicemen were buried in the cemetery in unmarked graves in the grassed area between the Memorial and the Cross of Sacrifice. They are commemorated by name on the Kirkee Memorial.



*Kirkee War Memorial
by Shrey Chauhan*

The Kirkee Memorial stands within the cemetery and was built to commemorate more than 1800 servicemen and women who died in India during the First World War, and were buried in civil and cantonment cemeteries in India and Pakistan whose graves were considered to be unmaintainable after India gained its independence in 1947.



Dark Serenity.
by Prathamesh Dixit

Sinhad Fort on a beautiful winter morning at 5:30 AM. The fort of Sinhad is a perennial favourite with trekkers and the residents of Pune, especially during the monsoons. But the top military outpost during the reign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, is best remembered for its glorious past.



Constructed in the 14th century, Sinhagad Fort was then known as Kondhana Fort. It was rechristened after the famous "Battle of Sinhagad" in which the great guerilla fighter and founder of the Maratha Empire, Shivaji lost his best lieutenant and trusted aide, Tanaji. It is said that upon receipt of the news of Tanaji's passing, Shivaji lamented, "Gad aala, pan singh gelaa", which translates to "We have won the fort, but lost the lion." Since that day, the fort came to be known as Sinhagad (The Lion's Fort).



Sundowners of the Grassland
by Chandrabhal Singh

A short distance outside of Pune, the city displays diverse natural habitats such as forests, plantations, grasslands, water bodies, and wetlands. These habitats are home to a variety of fauna; mostly small mammals, migratory birds, amphibians, and reptiles.



Sights such as this one are not uncommon, only a short drive out of the city. Wadegaon is about 35 kilometers from Pune and its grasslands are home to blackbucks. The male *kalvit*, (blackbuck in Marathi) easily stands out from among a group of antelopes for its long spiral horns, which it uses to impress the females.

Swami at the Mandai
by Ritesh Ramaiah

The Mahatma Phule Mandai is predominately Pune's fruit and vegetable market, although it is also popular for stores that sell sanitary ware and other products at almost wholesale prices. This market was built by the Municipality of Poona, and inaugurated on the 5th of October 1886.



Early morning at Mandai
by Prathamesh Dixit

Bamboo is my life, rest is news to me.

Caught in a Daily Struggle Called Life
by Rupesh Jadhav



Fashionistas, Fashion Street by Ritesh Ramaiah

One of Pune's popular markets for street fashion, Fashion Street is modeled on the lines of Mumbai's much sought-after Fashion Street.

Comprising of a cluster of almost 450 stalls selling everything from clothes to footwear, Fashion Street is the place for budget shopping. Located behind the popular MG. Road in Pune Cantonment, Fashion Street is a popular tourist hang-out. While shopping here, it is prudent to learn the art of bargaining; sometimes it is advisable to walk away and pretend to be disinterested until the vendor quotes an acceptable price.



Lavasa Hues
by Abhijit Bhatwadekar

Lavasa, a private planned city near Pune is approximately a 1 hour drive from the city, and 3 hours drive from Mumbai. Lavasa is a perfect weekend get-away destination, thanks to its favourable weather conditions and the array of entertainment, sports, and hospitality options this hill-city offers.

The city offers some of the most breathtaking views that are every photographer's delight in addition to hotels that suit every kind of pocket and traveller, along with a variety of dining options.

Lavasa is also popular for a variety of events, games, and sports carried out all year round, including the immensely popular Lavasa Women's Drive.

Kavadi-Pat, Pune

by S. Lalit

Along with Pashan and Veer Dam, Kavadi-Pat is another place to spot numbers of scrubland and wetland birds. It's a small village near Pune city.



View from Amanzi



Designed by famous architect Shabbir Unwala, Amanzi is a weekend getaway; a 2 hours drive from Mumbai and 1 hour from Pune.

Located at Tikona, and overlooking the sparkling waters of the Pavana Dam, Amanzi is a sanctuary of hushed repose. Amanzi's award-winning design features water villas with an infinity pool, Swiss type chalets and a most unique type of structure in all of Southeast Asia, that spell indulgence in every possible manner.

Amanzi is just the perfect retreat, and the best place to go trekking, kayaking and para-gliding, or for a more laid-back time such as celebrating anniversaries, birthdays or reconnecting with friends and loved ones.

In addition to the spacious bedrooms with soft queen-sized four-poster beds, the villas feature spacious verandas and a sitting area overlooking the best views of the Sahyadri Mountains and Pavana Dam.

The rooms here all feature a mini-bar, tea-coffee machine, climate control and refreshing bath amenities.



All photos on this page courtesy of Amanzi

Water Villa, Amanzi

The Water Villas are all attached with a spacious living area, most exquisitely furnished, a courtyard lit with natural sunlight radiating on koi fish and the most unique infinity swimming pool.

Amanzi's "Jewel in the Crown", Cocoon

One of the most fascinating structures at Amanzi is the Cocoon. A unique and luxurious abode, this is perhaps the only one of its kind across South-East Asia.

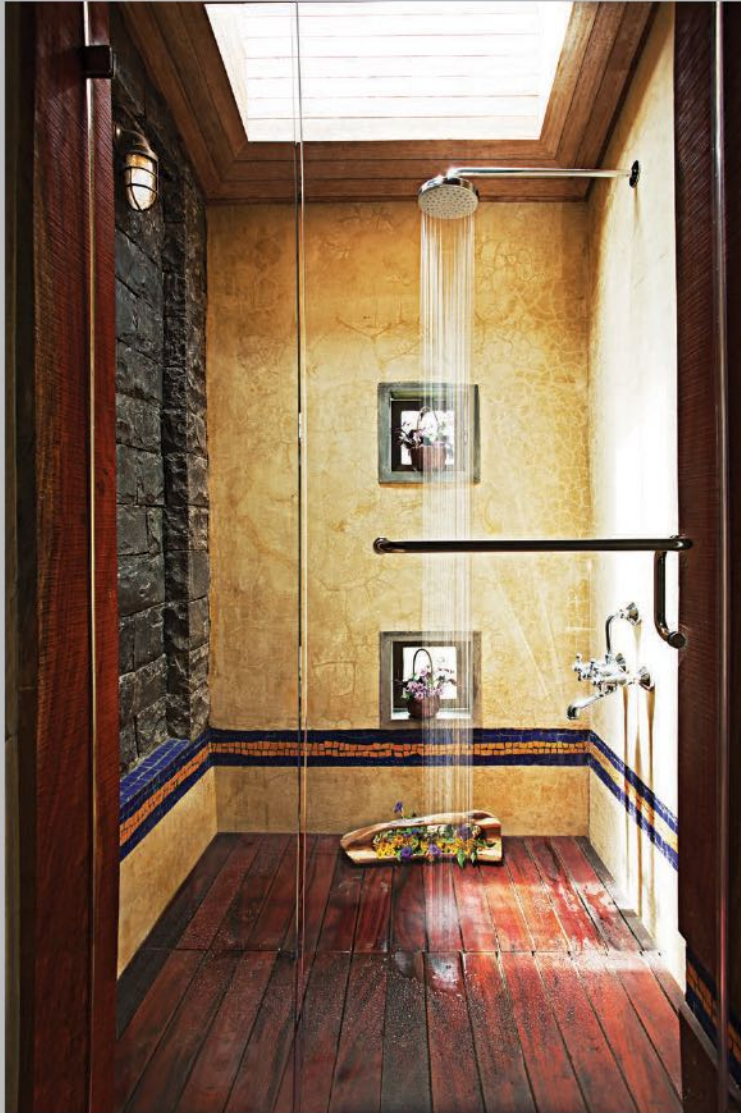
The Cocoon is a piece of splendid engineering. With total privacy and the best amenities, and equipped with a mini-bar, tea-coffee machine, refreshing bath amenities and a personal butler service, the Cocoon it is truly the "Jewel In The Crown" at Amanzi.



Deluxe Villa, Amanzi

The deluxe villas at Amanzi give the feeling of being blissfully lost to the world. Each villa is made entirely of wood and the bedrooms are attached to private veranda, where guests can enjoy the most dazzling display of nature and the spectacular views of the setting sun.

Each deluxe villa has a mini-bar, climate control, tea - coffee machine and refreshing bath amenities.



One of the crowning features of the villas at Amanzi are the bathrooms here. The open to sky bathrooms are luring in every respect, and are tastefully designed. These personal spaces of tranquility offer the best bath amenities and in-house toiletries.



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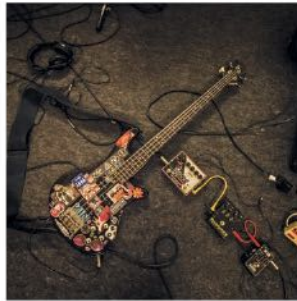
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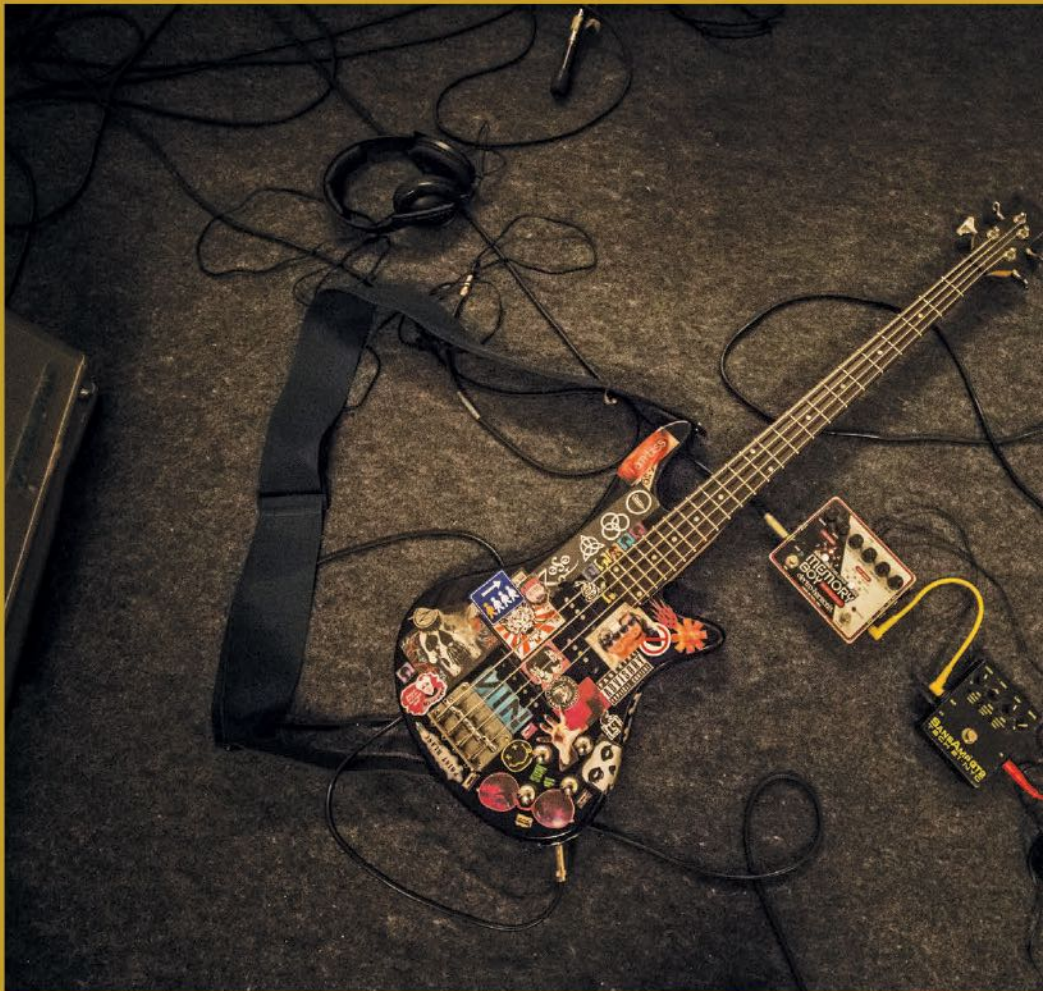
Our sense of hearing is a gateway to the world of sound. It helps us communicate with each other. Just like the other four senses, hearing too arouses a multitude of emotions - fear, happiness, anger, and so much more. The screeching sounds of tyres against a tar road bring to mind a frightening accident scene, soothing music transports us to a beautiful place and relaxes the body, while loud and jarring music often heightens up our nervous energy levels. Our hearing picks up varying qualities of sound and prompts our brain with the signals for a suitable response.



Sound of every kind is no stranger to a metropolis like Pune. Traffic sounds on busy streets, the strains of classical and Indie music from popular yearly concerts, trains chugging in and out of stations, the sounds of construction work, and the loud booming voices of hawkers selling their wares, while inviting buyers to come and take a look.

Join us as we explore a unique facet of the sounds of Pune - its fascinating music scene and festivals.

Sounds
of this wonderful
city.



Drawing Short Straws in the Studio
by Shrey Chauhan

Pune is an eclectic city; one where the old and the new coexist in harmony and sometimes influence each other too. This is where the traditional Maharashtrian way of life meets the English-speaking 'westernised' world, leading to a beautiful tapestry of intricately woven cultures. The city is famous for its various music and dance festivals; the over 6 decades old Sawai Gandharva Bhimsen Mahotsav, the Shaniwarwada Dance Festival, the more recent NH7 Weekender, jazz music festivals, rock concerts featuring famous international artists and much more, all complementing one another beautifully.



Dance to the music of happiness since it takes you to a happy place.
by Rupesh Jadhav

The Varkari tradition, a part of the Bhakti spiritual movement in Hinduism, dates to the 13th century. The Varkaris worship Vitthal, also known as Vithoba, the presiding deity of Pandharpur, and a form of Krishna. They undertake an annual pilgrimage *vari* from Alandi to Pandharpur, carrying *padukas* or sandals of the famous saints associated with this movement, famous amongst them being Jñāneśvar, Namdev, Eknath, and Tukaram.

Along the way, the Varkaris sing songs in praise of the lord and the saints. Music is an integral part of the *vari* with devotees chanting, and playing indigenous instruments such as the *chipliya*, the *ektari*, and the cymbals.



Meera Shenoy
by Shrey Chauhan

Inspector Cluzo

by Shrey Chauhan

Jazz music in India first became popular in Kolkata and Mumbai (Calcutta and Bombay then) in the early 1920s. Today, Pune, in addition to Delhi, and Goa too arguably is one of the foremost cities for Jazz music in India.

The city plays host to a number of jazz music festivals; and many restaurants including the famous and musically vibrant Shisha Cafe patronise Jazz music and musicians.



Ustad Amjad Ali Khan at the Sawai Gandharva Bhimsen Mahotsav

by Milind Date



Anoushka Shankar
by Shrey Chauhan

Prem Joshua
by Shrey Chauhan



Vinay Venkatesh at the NH7Weekender
by Shrey Chauhan

When it comes to the world of Rock music, Pune is a relatively recent entrant on the scene - the newkid on the block.

Pune has been home to numerous bands over the years and the live music scene in the city has been on the rise since 2005. Pune plays host to the famed annual musical festival - NH7 Weekender, which takes place in the month of November and in the past has showcased international acts like Imogen Heap, The Magic Numbers, Asian Dub Foundation and Reverend Sound System to name a few.

Contemporary Moves
© Image Library / Corbis



Dance has always been a cherished form of the performing arts in Pune, for many years. Earlier largely restricted to Indian dance forms; Kathak being a popular one, there is now a growing appeal for performances by contemporary dance schools too. In the past, Pune has played host to numerous international dance companies and solo performers. Today, Pune is home to budding dance schools that organise workshops and seminars, performances, master classes, and much more for their students, established dancers, and above all for a discerning audience.



Indo-Japan Rising





© Image Library / Corbis

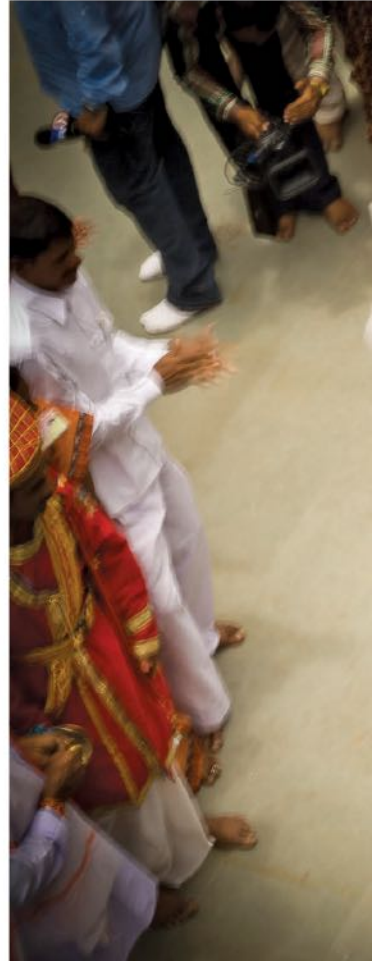
The collaboration between Pune's Kathak danseuse Maneesha Sathé and Japanese musician Yasuhito Takimoto dates back to 1991. Over the years the duo has strived to create a great cultural bond between India and Japan and have often come together to present the Indo-Japanese Cultural festival. A dazzling fusion of Indian dance and Japanese music, the events have been conceptualised and choreographed by Maneesha Sathé, to music provided by Yasuhito Takimoto. The resplendent shows have featured Japanese dance forms such as the dragon dance, the fan dance, and a fusion dance between Kathak and the Japanese dance Hotsuma, to the beats of the Taiko drums.

Locksmith
by Anant Nath Sharma



Rozi-Roti by Kartik Avatani

The daily sights and sounds of Pune are a reflection of the lives of the people of this city. This is the story of their routine from dawn to dusk, their struggles to buy themselves a few comforts in life, while earning their keep.





Dance, Sing and Smile by Rupesh Jadhav

You're in your own world, you've escaped all your troubles and are having the time of your life.

A Tambat Story



A particularly eminent figure in Tambat Ali is Mr. Bhalchandra Kadu - a vivacious and enterprising man who displays a wonderful pride for his art, craft heritage and lineage.

He is the seventh generation in his family to follow the craft of *tambat* (copper). Like his ancestors, he was employed in the business of crafting traditional *tambat* vessels until 1985. Since then he set up his own workshop, and has built quite a name for himself for his skilled craftsmanship.

*All pictures on this page
by Ritesh Ramaiah*



Tambat Ali is a small settlement of metalworking artisans. Over 800 of such artisans migrated to Pune in the 17th century under the royal patronage of the Peshwas. For more than three centuries, they beat on copper and made artillery, royal seals, utensils and more.

These days there are but 80 of them who still practice this dying craft.

A lone fisherman, Aundh Gaothan
by Anant Nath Sharma





Purging water
by S. Lalit

In the soothing hours of dawn and dusk, the many water bodies of Pune turn into a visual as well as aural delight.

Pictured here: (Left) River Mula that runs through Aundh Gaon and (Right) the Ghod that flows along Shirur, an administrative subdivision of Pune district.

Pune Traffic
by Adam Cohn



Dusty Construction
by Adam Cohn

Republic Day Band, Chatushrunji Temple, Pune
by Chinmayee Mishra

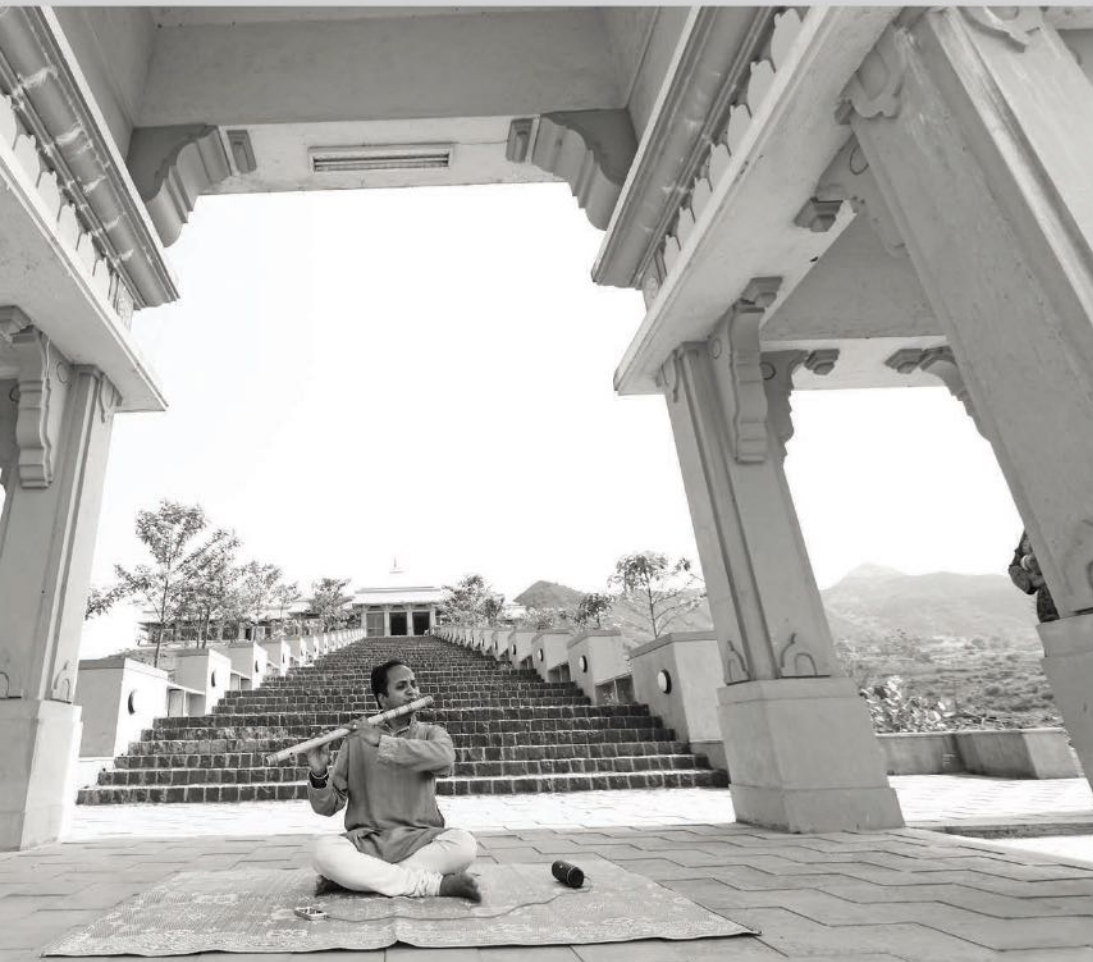


Schoolgirls Running by an Autorickshaw, Pune India
by Adam Cohn

A compilation of the very familiar sounds of the city of Pune - a few that are cacophonous,
and still many that bring joy.

Melodious Expressions





All photos on this page courtesy of Himanshu Nanda

Himanshu Nanda is an accomplished Hindustani flautist, and a disciple of the very eminent Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia.

An ardent performer, Himanshu Nanda is known for his vibrant recitals, interactive lecture demonstrations, workshops and collaborations with artists of different genres. Himanshu is known for his slow and steady *alap* and *jod*, and has shared the stage with world-renowned artists such as Fazal Qureshi, George Brooks, Gwyneth Wentink, and ace percussionist Sivamani.

Himanshu Nanda is the Director for Music at the Chinmaya Naada Bindu, a centre of the Chinmaya Mission at Kolvan, near Pune.

The pious sound of ringing bells is an indispensable part of most places of worship, Hindu, Buddhist and Christian. An auspicious sound in Hindu temples, the gong of the bell is believed to eradicate evil, and disengage the mind from persistent thoughts, making it more receptive. Bells rung during prayer are believed to control the ever wandering mind and focus on the deity. The Buddhists use bells and gongs through their various rituals, essentially to drive out evil spirits. Amongst the Buddhists, the sound of the bell varies, based on the ritual or activity being performed. For example, the ringing bell during meditation represents the sound of the Buddha teaching the dharma, while during the chanting of mantras it symbolises the union of the male and female principles.



In Christianity, church bells are rung in Anglican, Catholic, and Lutheran churches from the bell towers, to summon the faithful for prayer. Church bells are also rung on celebratory occasions such as weddings, or a thanksgiving service or sometimes in mourning (a single bell), as the coffin leaves the church.

The Church of Holy Name in Pune is one of the city's oldest historical landmarks. Popularly known as the Panch Huad Church, this was established in 1885 by missionaries, and to date is representative of the unique blend of Catholic and Protestant traditions. A distinctive feature of this church is its huge bell tower that houses 8 magnificent bells that are rung on every festival day, Independence Day, and Republic Day, to the accompaniment of gospel music and the National Anthem. These 8 bells were cast by Taylor & Sons of Loughborough, with each bell inscribed with the name of Christ.



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The sense of smell brings joy to otherwise ordinary moments. It alleviates a mundane chore like eating breakfast through the wonderful aroma of freshly brewed coffee, and a regular walk in a park through the heady perfume of flowers.



Any experience is woefully incomplete without the sense of smell. Join us as we experience Pune through the tantalising aromas emerging from the tandoor, the fragrant wholesale flower market at Mahatma Phule Mandai, and the purifying smell of incense sticks at a temple.

We invite you to
breathe
in the culture of this city.



Market spaces are some of the most vibrant and delightfully chaotic environs. The varying smells of fish, vegetables, and fruit all come together to form one reeking concoction that is strangely also very mesmerising. But, buried deep under these pungent smells, is the very familiar smell of life! That, is an invigorating kind of fragrance!





Wreaths of garlic hung up at the Mandal.

Hot Corn on a Wet Monsoon Day

by Rupesh Jadhav

American corn kernels boiled and then mixed with butter, red chilli powder/black pepper powder, salt and masala, sprinkled with lime juice.

Corn makes for a healthy, and delicious roadside snack. Pune-kars enjoy this all year through but especially during the drizzly months of monsoon. There's really not much else that beats the smell of corn roasting away to the relaxing pitter-patter of the rain.



Vendors in front of a temple

© Igor Kisselev / Alamy Stock Photo

The beautiful floral scent that permeates everything at the site of temples in Pune. You see them at temples as garlands for the gods.

The flowers signify piety and a devotee's trust in the supremely divine.

Start the day with prayer and the day is yours
by Rupesh Jadhav



The use of incense for religious purposes has its roots in antiquity. The burned incense may be intended as a sacrificial offering to various deities for wish-fulfillment.

Pune has many famous temples - the most frequented of them being the Dagdusheth Halwai Ganpati temple, drawing thousands of pilgrims every year. The main Ganesh idol in this temple has gold and diamond embellishments and is insured for a whopping sum of US\$10 million. As with most institutions in Pune, this temple has a rich history, too.

Dagdusheth Halwai (Dagadusheth Gadve) was a sweetmeat maker (Halwai in Marathi) in the late 1800s. He became so famous for his sweets that he adopted the word Halwai as his surname.



Legend has it that he lost his son in a plague epidemic. This caused his wife and him a great deal of distress - they were inconsolable. To heal themselves, their Guru, Shri Madhavnath Maharaj recommended that they build a Ganesh temple. This was completed in 1893.

Lokmanya Tilak, the Indian Nationalist leader was a close friend of Dagdusheth. Upon seeing his friend's dedication and the beauty of the completed temple, Tilak was struck with the idea of celebrating the Ganesh festival at the temple in a public manner. And the rest as they say, is history.

The Irresistible Fragrance called Petrichor
© Shutterstock



The earthy fragrance after a summer downpour is one of life's most pleasant scents and memories. This smell brings with it hope, and much to look forward to, as the rain beats down on the hot dry earth.

There is a word that describes this fragrance, and it's called Petrichor. The word was constructed by Australian researchers in 1964 from the Greek word, *petra*, which means stone and *ichor*, the fluid that flows in the veins of the gods (according to Greek mythology).

The smell of rain is soothing; it has been known to reduce stress and elevate moods.





Flower and Fruit Sellers by Rashmi Alevoor

If there was ever a match made in heaven, it would be that of floral and fruity fragrances. You can find exactly this heady mix at the Mahatma Phule Mandai in Pune.



IRRESISTIBLY ITALIAN



AltoVino

"He who knows good Italian food knows when he eats it!" And that is what Alto Vino, Pune's premier authentic Italian restaurant at the JW Marriott, Pune is.

Food, Beverage, Ambience

Chef Christian Huber's expertise is evident in the delectable variety of antipasti, pastas, pizzas, risottos and seafood dishes, the menu has on offer. A traditional wood-fired oven enhances your palate experience.

The restaurant also houses a Wine Bar with 45 Italian wines including wine verticals and wines exclusive to Alto Vino like the Roberto Cavalli. Alto Vino also exudes contemporary design and essentially brings together various elements of Italy including low-hanging chandeliers, illuminated wine towers, tunes of modern Italian music and sporadic clusters of candles that exude the glow of amber.

Welcome to cosiness and the subtlety of romance, a perfect place to enjoy a quiet dinner with warm and friendly hospitality personnel who will ensure that you are comfortable and your every requirement is met while you relish your meal.

JW Marriott Pune

At JW Marriott Pune we always strive towards continued innovation, luxury and excellence. We are the 3rd JW in India. The property encompasses 414 rooms including 44 suites designed for the business and leisure traveler, a bi-level Convention Centre and 12 flexible meeting rooms, 7 F&B outlets and the Quan Spa - the largest spa in West India.

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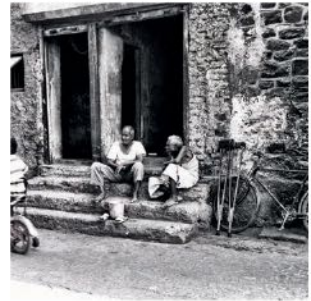
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4 Touch

One of the most fundamental senses that we possess, is that of touch.
It is how we process our everyday experiences.
It influences what we buy, what and who we love, and how we heal.

The textbook approach to understanding this tactile sense is literal,
with the skin being the sensory organ being the medium through which we experience touch.



Here, we've collated a number of 'Puneri' experiences that wonderfully depict how we can
experience the city through touch.

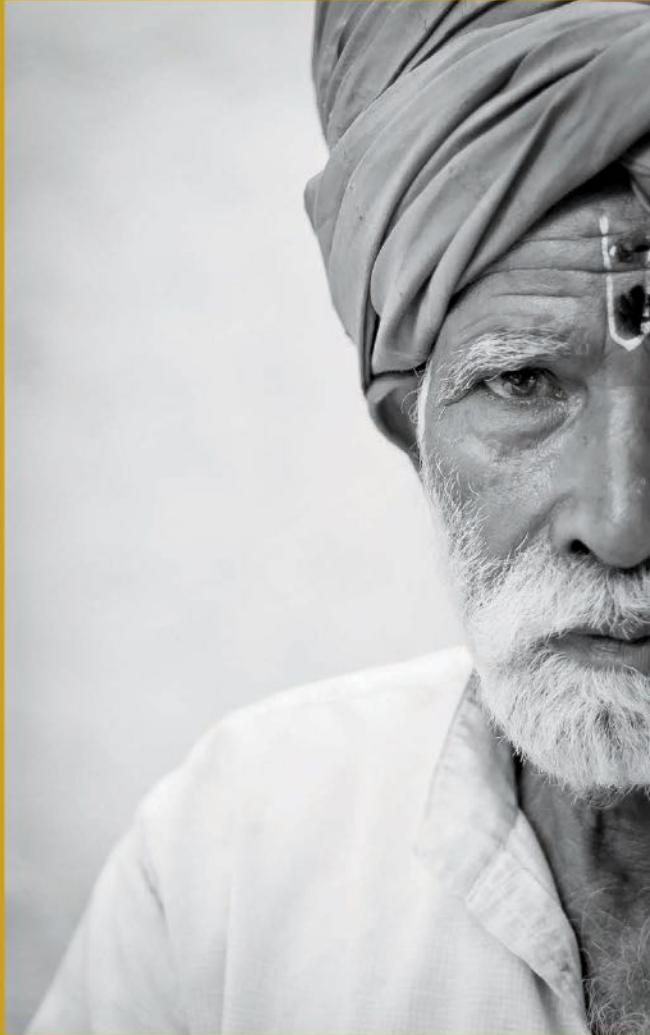
We've included photographs capturing our collective sense of religious faith
through prayer and dance, the wonderful sensation of the refreshing Pune rains,
and the optimistic strokes of a concerned citizen on a
mural that is part of a
city-beautification project.

We welcome you
to get a feel of this wonderful city.



Zen Archery Morning Class at the Buddha Grove, Osho International Meditation Resort
© Mistadas / Alamy Stock Photo

Osho introduced several Asian Zen techniques as regular programs here. Osho says: "Zen archery has been used for centuries as a technique for meditation. It is because it needs almost the same qualities as meditation needs. First: a non-blinking eye. Second: the capacity to look into things so deeply that the things start changing their size; their size starts depending on your look."



*Eyes tell the story, story of determination, dedication and devotion
by Rupesh Jadhav*

Faith and devotion are experiences like no other. It is a feeling so deeply moving - as they say faith can move mountains. The strength and resolve of the varkaris are derived from their absolute devotion to Lord Vithoba.

Street scene by Kiran Kulkarni



The market place in Mandai, Pune City by Kushal Das



Smiling Girl by Adam Cohn

The mundane roadside sights of Pune are still a thing of beauty to behold. People, neighbourhood streets, and everyday sights make up the character of a city. The photographs on this page show us that Pune is a well-read and well-fed city.



And He Walked by Shrey Chauhan

Enjoying Pune's first rains by oneself. Enjoying a 'touch' of solitude or the company of many united by a single mission. Pune through its many avatars.

No one has come today so I will have to play all alone by Rupesh Jadhav



A Sea of Pilgrims by Chinmoy Mukerji

The coexisting interfaces of modern day society in Pune.



Being Social by Sankarshan Mukhopadhyay.

At the NH7 Weekender Pune, 2013. While the music plays on, the crowds around her keep dancing, the lady looks at the phone and, the LCD of her camera.



Boy reading Quran, Pune.
© Dinodia Photos / Alamy Stock Photo



Mallakhamb is a traditional Indian sport in which a gymnast performs feats in concert with a vertical wooden pole or rope. Mallakhamb derives from the terms 'malla' which denotes a wrestler and 'khamba' which means a pole. Mallakhamb can therefore be translated to English as "pole gymnastics".

The earliest mention of Mallakhamb can be traced back to the 12th Century where it is mentioned in the classic "Manasolhas" (1135 A.D.). For about seven centuries after that, the art form remained dormant until it was given a new lease of life by Balambhattadada Deodhar, the renowned teacher of Peshwa Bajirao - II during the first half of the 19th century.

Postures of Mallakhamb.
by Rashmi Alevoor



Pictured here: New Pune Gymkhana, a charitable trust, is formed for the promotion of sports as well as fitness amongst children. The organisation currently conducts sports and fitness activities daily at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Science Exploratory Ground, Senapati Bapat Road, Pune.

All photographs on this page by Ritesh Ramaiah



The Gods at the Market (Mandai)

Mahatma Phule Mandai

Mahatma Phule Mandai is the largest vegetable market in Pune with over 526 stalls of fruits and vegetables. The historical market, built by the British government during the Indian Pre-Independence era also houses many stalls selling articles for Pooja (Hindu worship) as it is situated near one of the most significant Ganesh Mandals of the city.



Daily Dose of the Local News

The Kesari (Sanskrit for Lion) is a Marathi newspaper which was founded in 1881 by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, a prominent leader of the Indian Independence movement.

The newspaper was used as a spokes-piece for the Indian National Movement, and continues to be published by the Kesari Mahratta Trust and Tilak's descendants.





Eyes on the prize.
By Ritesh Ramaiah.



At peace by Pritam



The many visitors at Pataleshwar Cave Temple and Jangli Maharaj Mandir in Shivaji Nagar, Pune. The Pataleshwar Caves on Jungli Maharaj Road are 8th century cave temples dedicated to Lord Pataleshwar, God of the Underworld. Believed to have been cut out from a single rock, the place has massive pillars, which add to the grandeur of the temple caves. This religious shrine on Jungli Maharaj Road, housed in caves, that dates back to 700-800 AD has rather grand statues of Nandi, Sita, Ram, Lakshman, Lakshmi, Ganesh and an over-sized shivalingam under its roof.

It attracts devotees, photography and culture enthusiasts and even those who are seeking a quiet place to snooze.

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Rayssaboullac designed by Antonio Citterio.



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The sense of taste is closely related to the story of our evolution, and dates back almost 500 million years. Since the very beginning of time, taste has been very strongly associated with emotions. Our emotions are evoked by the five basic qualities of taste, which are 'bitter', 'sweet', 'sour', 'salty', and umami, which is Japanese for savoury.

Our sense of taste has the unique ability to bridge the gap of time. Certain flavours and tastes from our childhood evoke very strong memories, long after we may have even ceased to eat



these foods. Other foods possess the angelic quality of comforting us. In the context of Indian food, a home-cooked meal of the very humble daal-rice, is one of the most uplifting meals of all times. Almost all of us have memories of foods that evoke either childlike joy or dread.

When it comes to food and our culinary taste buds, Pune does not disappoint. Join us on a journey across Pune's khau gallis; go back in time and reminisce the flavour of the vegetables in the sambar served at Vaishali, the cutting chai and bun-maskar at Goodluck Café shared over endless hours of friendly banter, the chicken and chutney sandwiches at Marzori, and the spice from the vada pav at Garden Vada Pav.

Join us as we get a
taste of Pune.

Readying the buns, at Café Goodluck
by Ritesh Ramaiah.

The bun-maska at Goodluck is a must-have. A thick layer of Amul butter sandwiched between two layers of the absolutely melt-in-the-mouth sweet bun is an all time favourite at this Irani cafe. Pair it with an omelet or with a glass of strong *chai* - and its a fulfilling meal in less than a 100 rupees.





If its Biryani, it's gotta be Blue Nile!
by Ritesh Ramaiah

Ask any Puneite about the best biryani in town, and pat comes the reply - Blue Nile.

Ali Akbar Mashallah from Iran came to Pune in the early 1930s and set up a no-frills restaurant selling the finest biryanis. Today Blue Nile is synonymous with fragrant biryanis and succulent meats. And for a little Iranian fare, the Chello kebabs on a bed of saffron-coloured *pilaf* (pulao) is much recommended too.

Incense and Fruit
by Adam Cohn.

Fruit vendors in Pune often light incense sticks at their stalls to ward off fruit-flies.



Boiling Milk
by Adam Cohn

Puneites throng small tea stalls that dot the city, for their cup of strong, boiled tea. Very common across the city, these stalls cater to office goers, students, the daily wage workers, and everybody else who cherishes a cup of strong brewed tea. While the milk comes to a boil, and the dust of the tea leaves settle in the much used cauldron on the stove, the tea vendor adds spoons full of sugar to make it all come together as one heady concoction. Tea vendors often stock cigarettes and mouth fresheners to cater to their varying clientele; and sometimes maybe an inexpensive snack like a cream-roll too.



*Pune's Misal Pav
by Yogesh Unavane*

Misal Pav is an integral part of street food in Pune. Misal is a spicy and oily curry usually made of sprouts. This is topped with crunchy, fried garnishes such as farsan or sev, chopped onions, lemon juice and coriander, and served with pav (bread). Although there are different versions of misal such as the Kolhapuri misal, the Nashik misal, the Khandeshi misal, and the Nagpuri misal, this humble and yet fire-brand dish traces its origins to Pune.

*Good food at Café Goodluck
by Rashmi Alevoor.*



*Freshly fried, ready to bite
by Rashmi Alevoor*

The vegetarian patti samosas at Café Goodluck make for an excellent snacking option, washed down with pipping hot tea.

Smoking hot off the tandoor
by Rashmi Alevoor

The tandoori kebabs at Blue Nile are much sought after by the hordes of diners that visit this popular restaurant. Smoking hot, emitting a strong whiff of coal, the kebabs are presented most appetisingly by the very courteous staff at the restaurant.



South Indian fare at Vaishali
by Ritesh Ramaiah

Undoubtedly one of the most popular restaurants in Pune, Vaishali has been a popular hangout for innumerable college goers in the city for over 6 decades. The only restaurant that has notably served patrons over at least 3 generations is famous for its South Indian fare, cold coffee, and sev potato dahi puri or SPDP as it is popularly called.



Chinese Roadside Dosa
by Ananth Nath Sharma

Roadside dosa stalls like this one are immensely popular. Crisp dosas lined with delicious chutneys and served with potatoes is an inexpensive meal for many. And the variety served is indeed creative - Chinese dosa, cut dosa, Mysore dosa, the list is endless.

Sweet Paan

by Adam Cohn

Chewing on *paan* or betel leaf is very common across India and Puneites love their *paan* too. The *maghai* paan or the sweet *paan* is a tobacco-free one and is often eaten as a mouth freshener or after a heavy meal.



Pouring Chai

by Adam Cohn

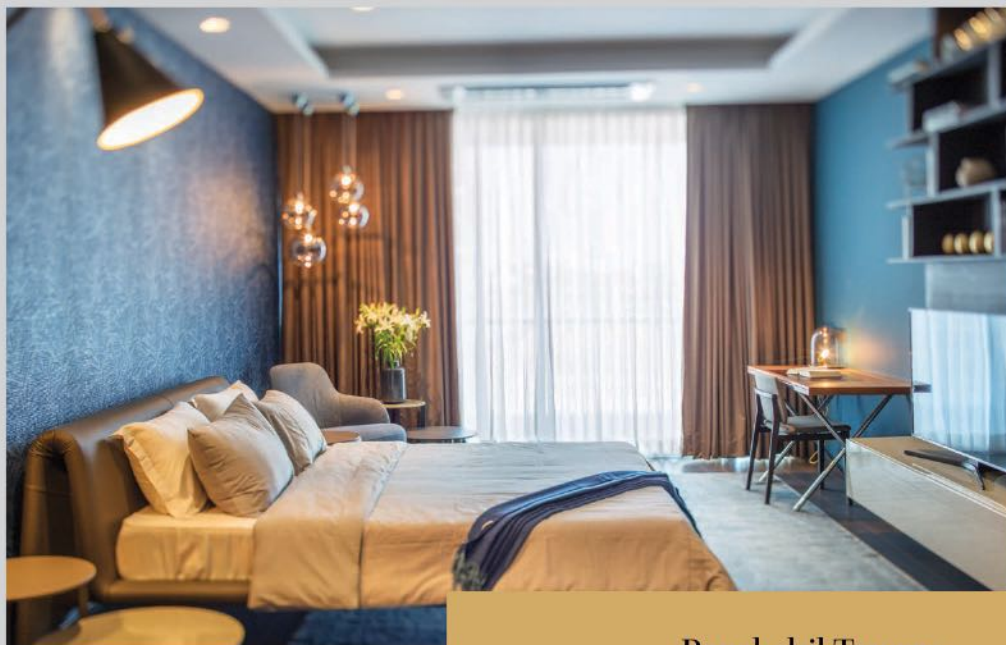


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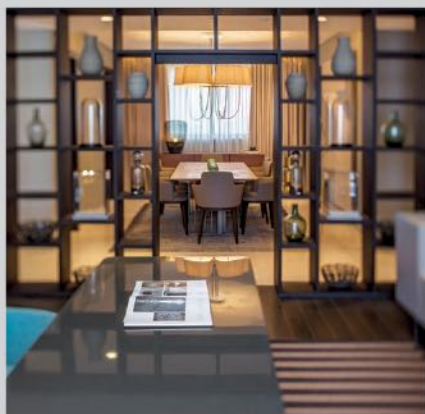
By Panchshil

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