

MEET THE
CITY

The Cole
Cult

Art
Fashion
Luxury
Style
Couture
Cuisine
Home
Happenings
Night Life

IN PUNE

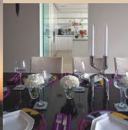
Volume -I / Edition I

PUNE CITY'S VERY FIRST EXCLUSIVE LUXURY AND LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE. FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY. PUBLISHED AND PRODUCED BY PANCHSHIL REALTY.



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NIRAV MODI

the jewel within

BRIEFING

The Cole Cult

Whips, sunglasses, hats, boots and what not!!

08

COVER STORY



19

WELLBEING

QUAN SPA

Discover the miracle of water.
Refresh. Revive.



23

LUXURY

Explore Nirav Modi's fine jewelry collection and his pursuit of 4Cs



29

Koregaon Park

Down Memory Lanes

35

Fashion

Faiguni & Shane Peacock at New York Fashion Week



41

FINE DINING

PASHA :
An experience beyond excellence!



43

GREAT OUTDOORS

Weekend de-stressers



47

SHOPPING

Either Or : What the store!

MEET THE
CITY

Volume -I / Edition I



49
CELEB SPEAK

Meet Twinkle Khanna.
An award winning designers
speaks about her passion
of decor and design

53
MIAMI

Play-Mi-a-mi-Play



57

A Welcome Stay!



Luxury & Leisure
at it's best

61

ART

Different Strokes
by Bua Shete



65

GHOST RIDERS

Harley Owners Club &
Pune Invitational Motocross



Harley Owners
Club



69

BOOK REVIEW



71

DINE OUT





Atul Chordia

CEO & Managing Director
Panchshil Realty

FORWARD

Welcome to the city of the Peshwas - the Queen of Deccan, the city of information technology.

Not the quiet city of old anymore; today's Pune is a bustling city of industry and enterprise.

IT, automobile, hospitality, retail, real estate and luxury-lifestyle are fuelling the growth, and driving the city's economy.

The city has much more to offer to everyone; from entrepreneurs to professionals to artists and even students. Pune, the historic seat of power is now a major economic node with world-class infrastructure.

Historic places like the Shaniwarwada and Aga Khan Palace share the same sky with glass and granite buildings. Hundreds of American and European multinationals prefer Pune as a base of operations. Pune's real-estate is drawing attention from across the nation; and expats too.

But more than anything, it is the spirit of Pune that imprints on the soul: the culture, the festivals, the races, the food and the infectious greenery.

To celebrate Pune and its vibrant spirit, Panchshil has decided to introduce Meet the City.

Meet the City is a glimpse into the most happening events, workshops and places in the city. It will feature who's-who of Pune, the newsmakers and the trendsetters: the rich and the famous, the quirks of the city and its charm.

Meet the City will mirror the soul of the city and keep you abreast with the changing and happening trends of Pune.

Hope you have a good time reading our features of the month, as we endeavour to catch the pulse of Pune for you.

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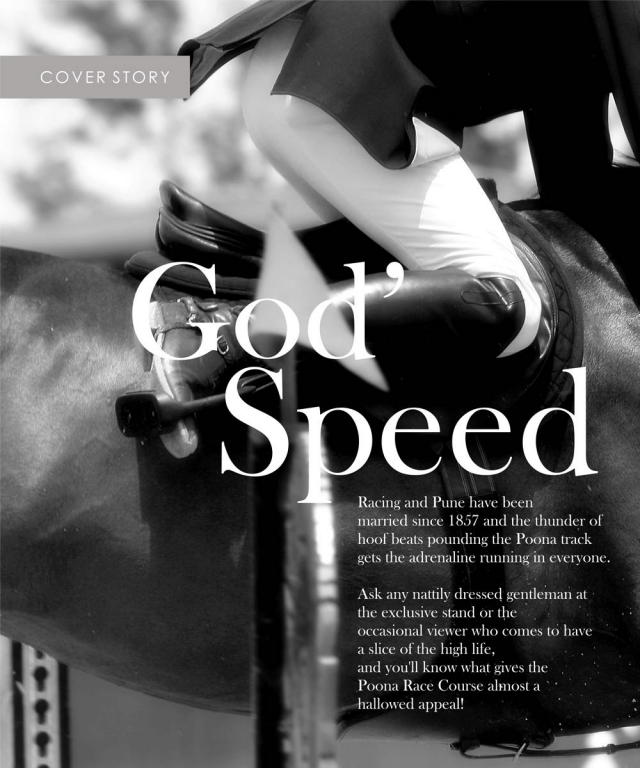
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COVER STORY

Pune Races

Whips,
sunglasses, hats,
boots and what
not!



COVER STORY

God's Speed

Racing and Pune have been married since 1857 and the thunder of hoof beats pounding the Poona track gets the adrenaline running in everyone.

Ask any nattily dressed gentleman at the exclusive stand or the occasional viewer who comes to have a slice of the high life, and you'll know what gives the Poona Race Course almost a hallowed appeal!





My father Zavareh Poonawalla, and his brother Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla pioneered the "Poonawalla Breeder's Multi-Million" some 23 years ago. The best 3 year olds in the country compete in this race, and it is often referred to the juvenile derby. This is a proud family tradition which welcomes the regular race goers, celebrities and an interesting mix of the city's fashion forward individuals. - *Delna Poonawalla*



6 Arjun Marg in Pune is home to galloping steeds, cheering stands and impeccable fashion! The Pune Race Course is a charming space with heritage buildings and a majestic provincial racetrack. This track boasts of many stars that have put our city on the world racing map, "We send out quite a few champions from here and most of them have made India proud - particularly Indian Champion Mystical at the Dubai International Carnival.

He impressed the world with his performance, which led to an invitation for him to participate in the richest turf race in the world." Mr. Zavaray Poonawalla, breeder beams proudly as he talks about Mystical.

Equine sports like horse racing and polo date back to the 18th century in India. Started during the British Raj, the public's passion for horses led to such events being organized more frequently. Since then, horse racing has captured the imagination of the upper circles and has long also been associated with aristocracy, glamour and glitz.

Today, racing in its current form occurs under the aegis of The Royal Western India Turf Club Limited (RWITC), one of the oldest and most well known horse racing clubs in the country. From its inception, it has been an exclusive club enjoying the patronage of socialites and eminent personalities. The races have always had their share of glitter from royalty to Bollywood stars to corporate barons making appearances on popular race days.

Fashion forecast for the races

By Delna Poonawalla

For this Pune racing season 2012, the keywords for style are; colour blocking, prints, lace trims, jumpsuits and of course head dress!

Colour blocking; it is the art of mixing 2 bold colours, which complement each other, but would not ordinarily be placed together. If you're wearing a blue and green shaded dress, which we would usually balance with a nude or black hat, but in this case, we have paired it up with a blue fascinator and shoes.

Prints can be anything from polka dots, stripes, flowers, animal prints and to even more abstract combinations.

Wearing lace is a tricky thing, bear in mind that racing is a day event, use lace sparingly - trims on a dress, or woven into the hat, lace shoes. If you're wearing a lace dress, pair it with a solid colour hat or fascinator and shoes in order to balance the look.

Jumpsuits are really in vogue right now, both short and long lengths. These are a good alternative to dresses and suits, which have dominated for a long time.

Black and white is of course a classic over the decades and always will be.

Experiment with hats because the races are an opportunity to do so. Cowboy hats, though fun, are not appropriate to wear to the races; top hats and bowler hats are formal enough for men in felt and straw usually.



Simone Poonawalla-Pandole and Rishad Pandole



Celebrity guests, including Raman Lamba, Ash Chandler, Shamiita Singha and Sahil enjoying the races.



Sagar Chordia with Maheka & Anurag Mirpuri
at Panchshil Million.

The club hosts its western India racing season at two locations: at the Mahalaxmi Race Course, Mumbai from November to April, and in Pune from July to October. Mumbai and Pune racegoers attend around 70 thrilling race days between these two venues.

Pune's racing season highlight events are the Poonawalla Multimillion, the Pune Derby, the RWTC Gold Cup, the Independence Cup, the Southern Command Cup, the Panchshil Million, Oktoberfest and several new sponsored events starting nearly every year.

The thunder of hoof beats pounding the Pune track gets everyone's adrenaline running! Ask any nattily dressed regular at the members' stand or the occasional visitor who comes to get a slice of a refined life, and you'll know what gives the Pune Race Course an almost hallowed appeal.

At the Race Course, if speed rules the track then fashion adorns its galleries. With the A-list of Pune and who's-who of stylish fashion icons putting up a show of style and grace, the racetrack is a glamorous paradise.

Races and Glamour. Races and Style.

by Delna Poonawalla

"Breeding and racing is a culmination of pedigree, performance, passion and power. Animals as magnificent as these deserve nothing less than well turned out spectators."

"Fashion forecast 2012:

Colour blocking, prints, lace trims.

Jumpsuits make a good alternative to dresses and suits.

Men can wear linen suits to be cool, stylish and comfortable."

"Tips for hats:

For the ladies, fascinators, combs and hairbands enhance the look and mood of an outfit."

"Racing is a formal day event, therefore dressing for the races is different from night or club dressing. For a regular race day you can plan a smart-casual look. For sponsored events, ladies can come in day dresses or trouser suits and fascinators or hats. Men should wear day suits - preferably in light colours."

Michelle Yohan Poonawalla

People attend in their sartorial best to celebrate the athletic excellence of the day; the mood is always that of being well turned out. Here we see people dressed smart and appropriately for the day. High fashion and couture make an appearance in the form of day dresses, suits, saris, and waistcoats; there are also some patrons who personalize their style to draw more attention than the rest! This is a place where we see hats mark their heaviest attendance. Indian racegoers come prepared to vie for an award for the best-dressed lady and gent in ethnic and western fashion categories.

A day at the races in Pune is always full of activity and fun for entire families. The Club plans its racing programme in such a way that all guests have something to enjoy, like backing a horse or cheering a winner, fashion and glamour programmes, life style events, bumper prizes and other add-ons make it a day of enjoyment and meeting people. Wine flows with chatter and champagne flutes alternate with binoculars in the hand.

Racing in India is almost synonymous with the Poonawalla name. This family is now in its fourth generation of innovation and excellence in racing. Their commitment and focus in life and business has rendered an indelible impression on the racing fraternity.

In 1982, the RWITC instituted the "S. A. Poonawalla Trophy" to posthumously commemorate Soli Poonawalla's lifelong contribution to Indian racing and breeding. In the year 1996 it became a guaranteed million race. This saw the new beginning of the "Million" concept and made it race one of the richest races in the Pune racing calendar, and it also determines the "top juvenile" in the country.



Yohan & Michelle Poonawalla

"For me, breeding and racing are beyond business, as it involves the nature and nurture of a magnificent and graceful athlete. Breeding is a complex science and expertise is only gained with long term practical experience. The rewards are also inspirational, as horses have these qualities of excellence that enable us to form connections with them. This why the racing fraternity in Pune welcomes families and individuals to come and witness endurance and performance together."

- Yohan Poonawalla



Left to Right : Shreesh Chordia, Twinkle Khanna, Anil Chordia, Sameer Chordia and Vivek Jain at Panchsheel Million.

A full-page photograph of a fashion runway. A model is seen from behind, wearing a dark red, strapless, corset-style bodice with a zipper down the back. The skirt is extremely voluminous, made of multiple layers of red fabric, creating deep, dramatic folds and a wide train that spreads across the runway floor. The model's hands are on her hips. The background is a solid, bright red wall. To the left, in the background, the legs and feet of other models in various outfits are visible, suggesting a busy runway environment. The lighting is focused on the model, highlighting the texture and volume of the dress.

“While leggy models
parade around in designer ensembles,
the hats worn
by the guests and models
push the fashion quotient
higher!”



In addition, The Poonawalla Breeder's Multi-Million is its Mumbai avatar is further proof of this growth. It is by far the most-awaited, high profile and exhilarating event on the circuit. For the record, it is also the richest race in the country and the richest juvenile race as well!

The stakes draw the best and brightest competitors and spectatorship. Fashion is at an elevated level at this do. The best turned-out lady and gentleman are awarded prizes. The day culminates in a grand party, which is eagerly attended by over three thousand invitees, making it perhaps the best-dressed event in town with ladies and gentlemen trotting their own brand of fashion and style.

This event in Pune's racing calendar caters to everyone - regular race-goers, first timers, professionals in the horse racing industry and their families. The guests of honor each year have included Bollywood stars, fashion models and the who's - who of global racing.

During the races, racegoers are busy people, there are horses to see, people to greet, statistics to be calculated, bets to be placed, and different races that are run. Breeder Simone Poonawalla adds that, "The real stars of racing are the horses. And they are the ones that need to be followed by us. Like human athletes, if people get more knowledgeable about the horses, their past performances, what they are targeted for, etc, then one can indeed have an excellent time at the races while also being at one's personal best."



We have sent out quite a few champions from India, most of them have made India proud, particularly Indian Champion Mystical at the Dubai International Carnival where he pleasantly surprised the world with his performance due to which he got an invitation to participate in the richest turf race in the world."

- Mr. Zavaray Poonawalla





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WELLBEING



Pure Bliss





Experience a whole new world of pampering and rejuvenation as The Pune Marriott Hotel and Convention Centre brings to the city of Pune - The Quan Spa.

Picture Courtesy : 'The Quan Spa'

Spread over 15,000 sq. ft.
The Quan Spa
at the Pune Marriott
Hotel and Convention
Centre is the greatest
signature luxury hotel spa
in Pune.

Experience a whole new world of pampering and rejuvenation as The Pune Marriott Hotel and Convention Centre brings to the city of Pune - The Quan Spa.

Quan, Chinese for 'the source of pure water', incorporates the best of Oriental wisdom. Offering a celestial world- the Quan mystically combines the five universal elements of, space (akash), wind (vayu), water (jal), fire (tejus) and earth (ira). Quan brings together the knowledge of the ancient Indian Science of Life, Ayurveda, with the best of European therapies for a holistic rejuvenation.

The philosophy of Quan is to bring to it's customers a wholesome way of living by offering life-enhancing therapies to retrieve

the balance of the mind and body. Similar to the one at J W Marriott, Mumbai, Quan Spa is the signature spa for Marriott International and the Quan Spa Pune will be the 2nd in India, only bigger and better than ever before.

Spread over 15000 sq ft, has 13 spa treatment rooms. While eight of the rooms are standard treatment centres, an Ayurveda room, bathing rooms and a Chinese yoga room make up the total of 13 treatment room. Done in warm appealing color hues blended perfectly with elegant sheers, couches in elegant silhouettes and suffused lights Quan is ideal to soothe your senses.

Keeping the stress of everyday fast living the Quan Spa comes with spa treatments

The Spa is an Asian-inspired oasis in an intense city, with a surprisingly gentle, almost spiritual quality. It offers holistic renewal in a setting of complete tranquility by combining the 5 universal elements of, space (akash), wind (vayu), water (jal), fire (tejus) and earth (ira).



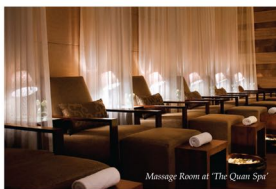


Massage Room at 'The Quan Spa'

that are tuned to caress your senses. So while the Mineral Salt Scrub helps stimulate the senses while cleansing and conditioning, "Earth Ira" is a program that grounds the senses and balances the mind. Apart from this the Spa also comes with a fitness centre, salon and foot and nail lounge.

The spa will be open from 8am to 10 pm and membership to the Spa and Fitness is also available. The members can also get a few benefits around the restaurants. Members of the Club Marriott can avail the spa services as well.

What are you waiting for... enter the World of Quan and welcome an invigorated world.



Massage Room at 'The Quan Spa'

The Spa is an Asian-inspired oasis in an intense city, with a surprisingly gentle, almost spiritual quality. It offers holistic renewal in a setting of complete tranquility by combining the 5 universal elements of, space (akash), wind (vayu), water (jal), fire (tejus) and earth (ira).

Timeless

F  ever

Jewels of
Nirav Modi



A 1ct Emerald Cut diamond as the centerpiece is surrounded by smaller emerald cut & Pink diamonds with faceted oval rose cuts mounted in the "En Tremblant" setting in 18K White gold totally weighing over 8 Carats.

En Tremblant ring



Day and Night earrings

Earrings which can be worn in multiple ways, the nearly 11 Carats Day & Night Earrings have 2 each of Fancy Intense Purplish Pink & Fancy Intense Yellow diamonds as centerpieces surrounded by petals with diamonds mounted on both the sides.



Nirav Modi fine jewelry, bearing the name of a global diamantaire, is the embodiment of its founder's lifelong pursuit to create one of a kind jewelry, which combine diamonds and precious stones with the highest level of aestheticism, innovation and craftsmanship. Nirav Modi pieces have been sold at both Christie's & Sotheby's auction houses.

In November 2010, with his exquisite Golconda Lotus Necklace, Nirav became the first Indian to be featured on the cover of the Christies auction catalogue joining the company of immortal jewelers like Bulgari, Cartier and Harry Winston.

Nirav Modi pieces make imagination and myth a reality. The Scheherazade collection was inspired by the legendary Persian Queen and the Shalimar Ring and its lotus motif was inspired by the Goddess Laxmi. The idea for the Endless Cut and related Enigma setting which together create a seamless band of diamonds came from a desire to create a diamond halo. And the elastic bangles were a result of the plastic bangles that children play with.

Nirav Modi jewelry blends Nirav's strong sense of design and aesthetics, his family's legacy, and his roots. The jewelry has been created with a view to match the splendor and tradition upheld by the maharajas. Adorned with the rarest of the gems from all corners of the world, embellished with breathtaking motifs and innovative cuts, each creation - a priceless heirloom to be passed on for generations.





Elastic bangles

Unique stretchable diamond studded bangles which fit all sizes, the Elastic Bangles are available in yellow, white & rose gold.



Fancy Yellow Cushion earrings

Earrings with 2 magnificent Fancy Yellow Cushion-shaped diamonds weighing 30.88 carats and 31.50 carats each set within an elegant surround of Fancy Pink brilliant-cut diamonds weighing 63 Carats in total.

In the Realm of the Rare



Mughal bracelet

Inspired by Mughal miniature art, the bracelet with over 30 Carats of diamonds & mounted in 18K white gold has flowers with Mughal-cut diamonds as petals & a combination of pears, Marquises & cabrete cut diamonds as the stem, leaves & buds.

In Conversation

Q : *What makes Nirav Modi, Nirav Modi?*

A : A relentless pursuit of excellence.

Q : *Your love for 4 Cs.*

A : I was initiated into the diamond and jewelry industry at a young age and developed a passion for the 4 C's (cut, colour, clarity and carat) very early on. Diamonds are amongst the rarest materials and no two diamonds are quite alike. Finding the diamond with just the right colour and clarity is a tantalizing endeavour and then crafting it into the precise shape and size is a delicate craft.

Q : *Journey so far and where do you see yourself going ahead from here?*

A : When you unite your vocation and avocation, the journey can be nothing short of fulfilling. What next? More exceptional jewellery of course!

Q : *Future Diversification plan.*

A : Perhaps a Nirav Modi watch line.

Q : *Your connection with Pune and do you find Pune, a potential market above other cities?*

A : Pune has emerged as a major city with many prominent captains of industry residing there. I have quite a few close friends in Pune so it has almost become a second home. We had a Nirav Modi jewelry event at the Marriott in Pune and are hoping to host more soirees there.

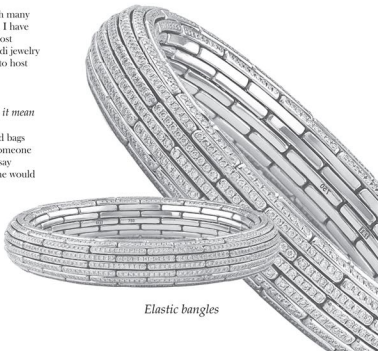
Q : *Nirav Modi at Christies. What does it mean for you?*

A : Ask someone for the finest shoes and bags and they'll direct you to Italian brands. Ask someone where the best cars are made and they might say Germany. And of course for couture, everyone would point to Paris.

India has had some of the best craftsmanship in the world for centuries and yet no luxury brand has originated here. When you ask someone about high-end jewelry, I want them to say India and a Nirav Modi necklace on the cover of Christie's was a step in that direction.



Nirav Modi



Elastic bangles



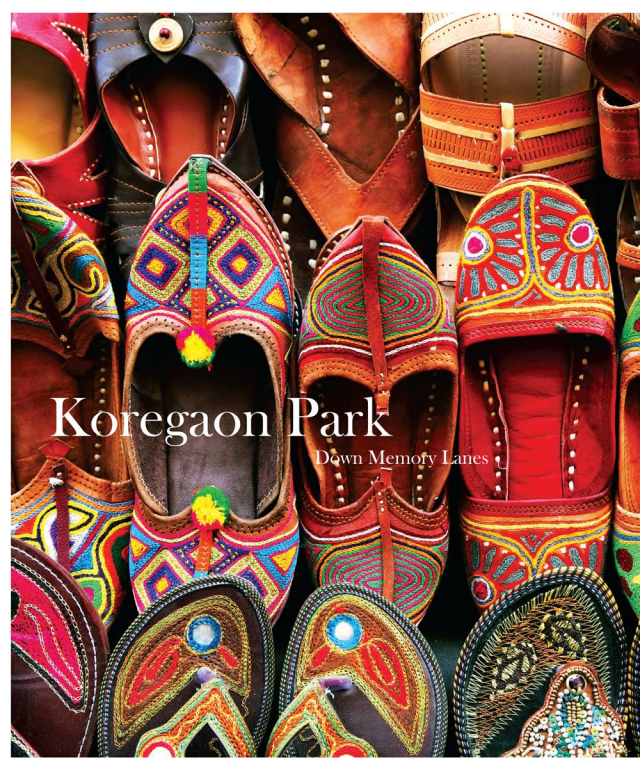
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Koregaon Park

Down Memory Lanes



7 main lanes reticulated with streets and by-lanes cling to the trance of Osho's philosophy and a gypsy-like allure lingers in the air here. Welcome to Koregaon Park or KP in short.

Contrast KP to the quaint wadas of Pune, the bustle of Swargate, the precise streets of Camp or the IT-driven rush of Hinjewadi and you'll know why it fascinates the young and the old, the rich and the bargain-hunters and the foodies and night-crawlers.

Undoubtedly, KP is Pune's most happening area with a generous sprinkle of popular eating joints, pubs and nightclubs, 5-star hotels, malls and multiplexes, showrooms and many street-side vendors.

The past decade or two has seen the metamorphosis of this tranquil, green and peaceful area into a bustling must-visit. Around the '70's, Koregaon Park really looked like a park: sprawling mansions, big gardens and quiet streets lined with huge banyan and orange gulmohars.

The Osho ashram, set up in the mid-'70's shaped the growth of Koregaon Park. With Osho's brand of spirituality and robes, the gulmohar trees of Koregaon Park found new meaning.





Courtesy : Stone Water Grill



Courtesy: Osho Meditation Centre



Courtesy : Stone Water Grill





Courtesy: Senses at Oakwood

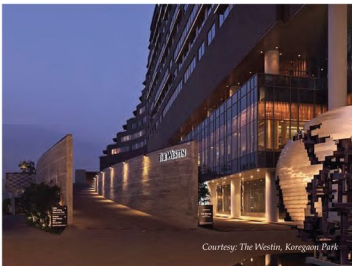


Courtesy: Senses at Oakwood

International visitors who haunted the commune made Koregaon Park their home, and with them Koregaon Park grew into a bustling urban populated area. The ashram, now called the Osho International Meditation Resort, is the nucleus of Osho's philosophy and is a distinct landmark in Koregaon Park. The ashram contains a spiritual club, landscaped gardens, a swimming lagoon, a waterfall and even a commune restaurant. The annual Osho festival draws large crowds and makes it one of Pune's hottest tourist spots!

Squeezed between the noisy arterial North Main Road and the quieter South Main road are many a vintage bungalow and the main lanes are crisscrossed with by-lanes and connecting streets, giving Koregaon Park its distinct identity today. Many of these serve as summer retreats for the affluent in the idyllic corners of Koregaon Park.

Today KP is a food lover's paradise with about 70-odd restaurants in the area! Food culture is ripe in KP with everything from Italian, French, Mexican, Thai, Japanese, Lebanese and even Turkish food! Adding to the list is the long list of local Indian delicacies and preparations and the many fast-food chains.



Courtesy: The Westin, Koregaon Park





A musttry list of eateries in KP would include Malaka Spice, Arthur's Theme, The Great Punjab, Prem's, Mad House Grill. If it's a fine dining experience, then the O-Hotel and its famed Sushi bar and the Westin complete the eating experience. Senes restaurant is another upbeat place that will have you drooling; with the space and aesthetic decor that overlooks a soul-soothing swimming pool, the 110 varieties of drinks and the sumptuous a la carte menu is a must-visit. Not to be outdone are the pocket-friendly joints like Sweet Chariot, Burger King and Mocha.

No talk of KP and food is complete if ABC Farms isn't mentioned. Arguably, the pioneer of the food culture here, ABC Farms has set the bar high with its Hyderabad restaurant Golconda, the extremely popular Shisha Cafe and Aromas the coffee shop.

Pubs and nightclubs are galore in KP and add to the energy of Pune. Curve (ABC Farms), High Spirits (North Main Road), Kue Bar (The Westin), Stone Water Grill and Hard Rock Cafe are almost always teeming with youngsters and adults who keep the party spirit going in KP into the wee hours of mornings. For the more simple pleasures of a quiet evening and a few rounds of drinks, check out the Oak Lounge. With its quaint interiors and plush couches, a quiet evening in KP is fulfilled!

Hippy fashion still finds a special niche in KP lanes and small shops. So there's no surprise if cheap yellow rubber slippers hang right next to Che Guevara and Bob Marley printed tee-shirts, and the hawkers try pulling a fast one by selling you the trademark 'Osho chappals'.

A lot of jewellery, trinkets, ornaments and decorative items are also available here. Small shops selling 'authentic' Kashmiri and Tibetan handicrafts and artefacts are dime a dozen in KP! Be sure you stroll around the entire stretch before you splurge.

Spending is easy in KP as long as you find a good bargain here. A quick tip: haggling is mandatory, splurging is optional.

Falguni and Shane Peacock

At
New York Fashion Week



Under the majestic white tents of Lincoln Center Falguni and Shane Peacock unveiled their SS12 collection. Fit for the ultimate avant-garde fashionista with a combination of bondage-like dresses, sharp shoulder pads, and silky crimson turbans, this collection is anything but mundane. And while the collection's overall color palette is dark the pops of bright colors and sequin embroidery bring the pieces alive. Many of the models in their colorful turbans donned avant-garde creations with colorful pictorial prints that would set them apart in any crowd.

Falguni & Shane Peacock's SS12 collection is for the lady of distinction who wants to enter a room with her personal style heralding her arrival. Their design's are for the diva that wants to get noticed. Celebrities who attended the show were Joan Rivers, La La Anthony and skater Bam Magera. Also seen in the attendees cheering for her favorite designers was Anushka Dandekar in a dress from the designer duo's collection.

Their designs have caught the attention of the world, and have had even the celebrities moony. From Chery Cole, to Black Eyed Peas' beauty Fergie and actor-singer Katy Perry to divas like Lady Gaga, J-Lo and Nicole Scherzinger, the peacock couture of bold colours and kaleidoscope of sequins and embroidery has taken the world by storm.

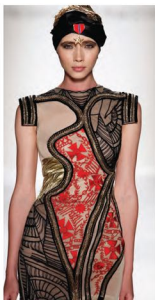
The husband-wife duo started off around August 2002 with specializations in trousseau and custom made garments. Based in Mumbai, they shuttle between Milan, New York and Paris and everywhere they are stamping their design authority with beguiling panache.

Around November 2002 they launched their label and retailed at designer stores in Mumbai and around India. 'Peacock Prêt' in Dec 2003 became the first flagship store for the label and led the way for fame for this talented couple.

Their forte lies in corsets, ponchos, slip dresses, embroidered shirts, embroidered trousers and jackets. Like a perfect partnership, Falguni looks into the orders and the running of the company whereas Shane looks into the growth and expansion of the company.

Both of them are involved in the designing process. Together, they get down to designing and finalizing the color the cut and fabric that goes into the making of the garment. Their international footprints can be seen in London, Manchester, Miami, Marbella and Dubai. Fuel Mumbai, M&S Design Delhi carry their brands in India. ■





"Fashion moguls and brigades of the most beautiful models of India set Pune on fire with their glamour and glitter at the ABIL Pune Fashion Week."

"Into its 3rd edition the ABIL Pune Fashion Week is unarguably the hottest event on the Pune social circuit."



Fashion moguls and brigades of the most beautiful models of India set Pune on fire with their glamour and glitter at the ABIL Pune Fashion Week from 11th - 13th April 2012.

Showstoppers included who's-who of celebrities and ramp eye-candies. Celebrities who melted Pune with their sizzling ramp-walk included Karishma Kapoor, Anjana Sukhani, Randeep Hooda, Vidya Malvade, Adini Rao, Hazel Keech, and Sarah Jane Dias with celebrities like Vatsal Seth and Neha Dhupia finishing the kill merely by their presence. With the glamour quotient pushed so high, Pune was left reeling under the fashion hangover that refuses to go away!

Well into its 3rd edition the ABIL Pune Fashion Week is unarguably the hottest event on the Pune social circuit and also the most exclusive with its by-invitation-only policy. Hotel Westin, Koregang Park was host to a bevy of beauties and the star-studded designers and audience alike.

Featured in this glitzy event were designers like Adam Saaks, Babita Malkani, Malini Agarwalla, Nivedita



Saboo, Raakesh Agarwal, Samant Chauhan and Shraddha and Mayank, and Swapnil Shinde.

Other illustrious names included those of Vikram Pladnis and Surily Goel along with Sanjay Hingu, Ritika Bharwani, Payal Singhal, Nitya Bajaj, Joy Mitra and Anjalee and Arjun Kapoor.

Day 1 kick-started with Swapnil Shinde's 'Madonna meets sci-fi' designs replete with shorts teamed with metallic armor jackets and strong neckpieces and stunning LED shoes.

The ethnic and Indian feel was carried forward then by Joy Mitra's "The Nomad Princess", inspired by a free-spirited strong woman. The collection



included chic colors like whites, deep reds, blacks with a hint of gold.

Finally, Raakesh Agarwal's collection was the grand finale of Day 1. Delicate textures inspired by the intricate carvings and fragile latticework of the Taj Mahal were woven in exquisite lacework. Raakesh's color palette moved from ivory to nude, champagne tones and even topaz yellows; his collection culminated with electric blues that set the mood for the coming days.

Day 2 at the ABIL Pune Fashion Week 2012 was literally star struck, with the likes of Karishma Kapoor, Randeep Hooda, Vidya Malvade and Anjana Sukhani gracing the event. If Malini Agarwalla showcased her Africa inspired 'Kawzulu' collection,



FASHION WEEK ON 3

her showstopper Vidya looked ethereal in the black and red and beads about her. Payal Singhal on the other hand looked to the Bard of Avon and came up with 'A Midsummer's Night's Dream' combination of magic.

From gowns to lehengas to salwar kurtas: her georgettes, silks and brocades were sparkling as the crystals used! Surily Goel then drenched the stage in a variety of colors and brought a very girly feel to the ramp with her long graceful dresses and reticulated embroidery.

Sanjay Hingu au contraire set the mood to grey with his men's collection of funky motifs and elaborate trousers. However, like any fashion show, the show was stolen by the finale of Nivedita Saboo. How could she not



with Anjana Sukhani, Randeep Hooda and a dazzling Karishma Kapoor sashayed in Nivedita's 'Majestic Realms' collection?

Day 3, the last day for the PFW starting with Gauhar Khan in Nitya Bajaj's elegant white gown and her bold designs the evening was lined up for an explosive fashion vista!

Talented duo Shraddha and Mayank tried a new trend with their collection 'Whim' that was based on various handcrafted dyeing techniques. Ritika Bharwani would dressed her showstopper Aditi Rao Hydari in orange that made her look like a maiden from heaven! 'Style Diaries of a Diva' was Ritika's collection and beige and gold and yellow and silver metal were the flavors for divas.



Victorian and Renaissance timelessness were 'married' in the designer couple Anjalee and Arjun Kapoor's collection of bridal wear. Then came Sarah Jane Dias and with her came Adam Saaks, also known as the 'Master Shredder' or 'Adam Scissor Hands' for his live cutting performances and spontaneity of design. He snipped his trademark

"With the glamour quotient pushed so high, Pune was left reeling under the fashion hangover that refuses to go away!"



here and there and voila! Sarah's plain tee-shirt was now a masterpiece of art and cuts!

With the awesome designs and jaw-dropping style on display, ABIL Pune Fashion Week wrapped with the most-awaited show: the grand finale by Vikram Phadnis, a mentor to this event. Phadnis dazzled his models in anarkali suits, saris and draped them in velvet and heavy gold zari. His impressive collection stupefied everyone at this gala Pune fashion event, and had everyone mark their dates for the event next year!



Where each weekend is a long one. Where every season paints a new master

TWINKLE KHANNA, Awar



I AM HERE

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piece. Where slowing down is not a luxury, but a way of life. And so, I am here.

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FINE DINING



Open Agenda!

An experience beyond excellence -Paasha



In the heart of Pune is a restaurant that has distinguished itself with its delicacies and ambience! Fine global cuisine, the best quality ingredients, professional service and a charming experience are the hallmarks of Paasha, the rooftop joint at the Pune Marriott Hotel and Convention Centre.

Atop the 26th floor, it offers a casual dining experience with a touch of refinement. The special North Western Frontier (NWF) Cuisine is an indulgently sophisticated experience.

Stained glasses, textured walls and cotton blend with the soft color scheme of white, creams, beiges and brown. The main dining area has illuminated glass-fronted trenches to set off the decorative arches inside. The ambient lighting is unobtrusive, while the décor is mentally relaxing. The fresh cut flowers and live potted plants rejuvenate the senses.

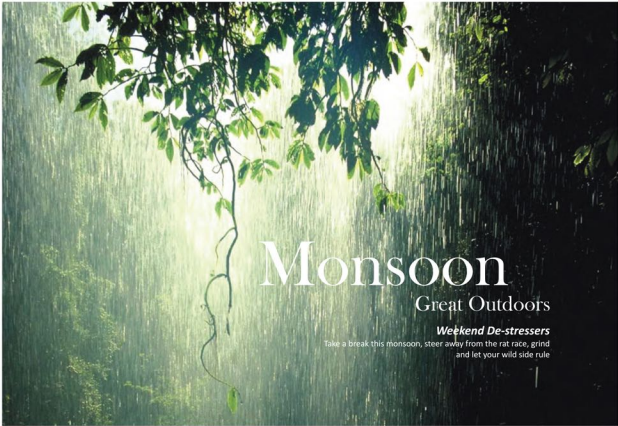


The glass doors spill out into a terrace extension which is a juxtaposition of space and light. In the evening, the star spangled sky, the cool breeze and the myriad of lights renders a magical setting. All this pampering is intended to stir up jaded palates in "there's no rush" milieu.

Since its inception, Pasha's mouth-savoring menu is much talked about. Each dish is a signature dish and a walk-in wine cellar ups the ante. The bar is well-endowed, but the whole-hearted NWF fare is what you should make a beeline for.

Pasha's grill and entrée sections are huge and there's a lot to choose from every category: poultry, mutton, seafood and vegetarian. We recommend the *Kakori Kebab* (minced mutton flavored with saffron and traditional spices), *Nadar ke Gular*- (vegetarian kebabs made of lotus stems), *Lahori Nalli*- (stewed lamb shank), *Lahori Bharta*- (roasted eggplant with onion and yogurt) *Dal Pausha* (black lentils simmered overnight.)





Monsoon

Great Outdoors

Weekend De-stressers

Take a break this monsoon, steer away from the rat race, grind
and let your wild side rule



In Pune, a brief account of how adventure is sought in raging white waters and boats that don't capsize. How a bunch of nine-to-fivers went about rappelling and were floored by the zorbing. And how on an impromptu trip and (mis)identifying bird calls and kayaking make up great fun!

“Through the entire ghat the spectacular imagery of the orange sun, grey clouds, lush greenery and tall brown cliff faces had us mesmerized. The lovely tea and piping-hot batata bhajiya just off Garudmachi were only a prelude to a fantastic outing!”

White Water Rafting

Kolad called us this weekend. It was a rainy wet, and the weekend promised some respite. We just had to experience wildly rushing white-waters and the enormous task of keeping a boat afloat!

And so, eight people in two hired cars set off for Kolad making way through a splendid Tamhini ghat in the wee hours of the morning.

The spectacular imagery of the orange sun, grey clouds, lush greenery and tall brown cliff faces in Tamhini ghat had us mesmerized. The lovely tea and piping-hot batata bhajiya just off Garudmachi were only a prelude to a fantastic outing!

If the road to Kolad was amazing, the experience that awaited us at Kolad eclipsed it!

Timing was of the essence here; we had to make sure we reached Kolad by nine am before the dam gates were opened.

The Kundalika River is fast running and the waters from the Mulshi dam supplement the flow and make it ideal for adventure rafting. Many cascades and rapids add to the twelve km stretch of superb and challenging white-water rafting. One can actually see the waters raging and foaming once the dam gates are opened.

Once we got there, we trooped in with another group for a pep talk and a crash-course on white-water rafting. Our young instructor had stern words: “White-water rafting is a serious activity”, he stressed repeatedly.

Five minutes later, twenty of us geared in helmets and life jackets picked up the oars and went through some rowing



practice on land. It was a team effort the instructor told us and rowing in tandem was essential not just to enjoy but to survive!

After many such warnings and some mock battles with oars, we waited while the waters swirled in.

At about 9.45 am, our journey began as two rafts holding nine people (one instructor in each) were pushed into the river.

The drill was just that, we realised. The real thing made a mockery of our heroism. The rafts were flung with such force that we had a hard time staying in place and rowing; not to mention our attempts to not let the raft capsize or any one going overboard. The other raft capsized once or twice but not us. A few kilometres of this rough frightening ride dodging rapids and we were the riders of the rushing river.

Two and half hours later after many rapids, screams, and the instructor's commands over the roar of water, it was over. As we eased into calm waters, we yelled with all our might and sent high-fives flying across! We had conquered the river, we had not capsized!

And then on the instructors command, we jumped into the waters for a swim and some fun!

To cut a long short story short: we hitched a ride back to the starting point, returned the gear, thanked the instructor, gulped down food like monsters and finally, flush with excitement and exhaustion squeezed into our cars and rode back home.

To-do list for the next trip back to Kolad is to photograph the Tamhini ghat when the sun is setting.



Adventure Sports



Travelogue : Della Adventure , Lonavala

A long languid weekend stared at us in the face, and a bunch of us 20-somethings hitched an early bus ride to Lonavala to visit Della Adventure to indulge in some adventure sports!

We got into the thick of things immediately by opting for the over-priced adventure package that included zorbing, paintball, rappelling and the ATV race. The time on the net cricket and golf seemed pretty short considering the 3.5K being charged!

First on the list was tackling the challenge course. For guys who sit at their computers all day at work, this was a mixture of gymnastics, power lifting

and back breaking rolled into one! Not to mention rappelling down a steep mountain face!

With the ladders and ropes and knots and the rocks, we were left gasping for breath as we struggled to get every foothold and keep ourselves on the ropes making our way upwards or downwards, if it pleases you! Challenging as it was, my personal favourite was the Burma Loop; reminded me of the Lakshman jhula minus the iron.

Half a day gone and we dug into some food at the restaurant in Della. Not included in the package, the servings seemed little for the cost, but relishing nonetheless.

But we floored-quite literally- by the zorbing! The feeling of rolling down a hill in a plastic ball was crazy! This is one activity to look forward in Della!

Zorbing done, we decided to get gung-ho, and divided ourselves into 2 teams for some paintball action! 5 people each with paintball guns and a combat simulated arena Counter Strike players will know when i say 'cover me' was the loudest call anyone of us had! The arena is laid out well with not too many blind spots, but sufficient covers for an exciting match! And with our pet 'Capture the Flag' scenario, we had a gala time shooting and dodging paint bullets.

As a finishing touch, we picked up guns again- this time in the video game parlour - and wrapped d up our short but awesome adventure outing!

i made a to-do list also: Paragliding and staying over to enjoy the villas here.

Family Getaway

Travelogue : LAVASA HOLIDAYS

It was just another boring weekend until an impromptu trip to Lavasa happened.

A sprawling city built on seven hills, the beauty of Lavasa is only as magnificent as the surrounding green on the hills. But what tips the balance in favor of Lavasa is the things you can do here- or simply do nothing-and relax. Lavasa has a nature trail, a sprawling game arcade, villas and hotels and my new personal favorite - water sports.

Quite unlike us, we hadn't really booked anything and as we found out, we didn't need to! We just picked up our bikes on overcast Sunday morning and set off for Lavasa.

The road to Lavasa is a treat for sore eyes, and the Temghar dam and the many catchment areas on the Mutha River put on an exhibition of natural beauty, especially in the monsoon. A blanket of fog greeted us but eventually thinned out as the sun crept up, rendering hues of golden and green. The aptly called Lavasa road has some scary hair-pin turns but the view more than just compensates.

As a prelude to the interlude, we caught some delicious breakfast at Machaan- a restaurant, and immediately hit the Nature Trail. A meticulously made path links you directly to the forest and the nature to which Lavasa is home to. The guide rattled off a list of flora and fauna and we tried identifying a few bird calls, but the liberal additions of huts, gazebos and viewing galleries caught our attention more!

Some two and half hours later we emerged mesmerized from the trail and set off for the next adventure: water sports!

Lakeshore organizes the water sports and activities in the Dasve Lake here. We decided to skip the cruise boats and the inflatables and instead turned our attention to the powerful Yamaha jet skis. We zipped around the lake racing and playing catch, the powerful engine throwing jets of water as we screamed the throttle open!

Sadly, since you can't ride the jet skis alone, we decided to invest more in kayaking. The one-man boat is hardly a speed demon, but I would trade the Jet Ski for the kayak happily! The rhythm of the oar and challenge of navigation is much more my style than the Jet Ski with someone looking over my shoulder.

Over an hour of kayaking later we decided to indulge in a friendly game of water volleyball with a family on a visit like us. It was a mock serious game as people splashed and jumped and cheered every point! Just for the record, we won.

So after the morning nature trail and water indulgence, it was time for food and we headed to Vyranjan. Honestly, I am not a foodie and can't comment on food. All I can say is I licked my fingers. End of food commentary.

Lavasa was done for the day, and the evening spent in riding back home. To-do list: update computer wallpaper to Lavasa backdrop.





“Bob Marley said
“Conquer the
devils with a little
thing called love”
and we have a
clock here that
says the same
thing!”

Rikka Bharwani
Owner - Either Or

ETHTER OR is a story of bringing people together. We are about sharing philosophy and soul searching in a fun way. In that, it is about the essence of India, of a perpetual festival of diversity and choice of things beautiful made with hand, heart and imagination.

We believe that everything in nature finds a niche – our hope is to find the right balance and provide a platform for expression. To take an idea and celebrate it, sustain it, nourish it, and spread it. Our success is in the acceptance of new waves of design, in the development of new markets; and the catalysts are our passion, our commitment, and our activism fuelled by the love and support of those experimenting with Indian design, craft and aesthetics with an alternative view.

The store's unusual layouts and diversity is our USP. We are famous for our naturally dyed and block-printed range of garments, home décor, personal accessories, art, gift



options, jewellery, books, music, films, and merchandise.

'Traffic' is a great way to describe the ideation we carry forward. For this traffic of ideas we provide separate lanes and let ideas find their way to the shelf, on their own. The focus remains that the roads are safe and comfortable for everyone involved. Our initiative is not as much as to police as to be a beacon!

Pune is a sustainer, and always fostered radical ideas - in spirituality, education, yoga, and even alternative therapies! Pune is also small and yet great in its generosity, and does not create circumstance for discrimination, and that it is a huge inspiration for us. It provides an opportunity of not following a rat race, and to find the balance of life in a holistic manner.

This is consistent with ETHTER OR's philosophy, Pune's favorite store!





The work of Twinkle Khanna has graced homes in Mumbai, Pune and beyond in the last couple of years. Her graceful style and aesthetic designs have won her accolades in the field of interior design. In a tete-a-tete with MTC, the award-winning designer speaks why passion and profession are synonymous in her life...

Here I am





pic courtesy
The Address by Panchajil Realty Interiors by Twinkle Khanna



"It's been a wonderful journey. Interior designing is my passion. I was an assistant to an interior designer before I became an actress. I believe life has come to a full circle for me."

Q : How was the journey of being an actor to an award winning Interior Designer?

A : It's been a wonderful journey. Interior designing is my passion. I was an assistant to an interior designer before I became an actress. So it is not that I have started abruptly. Now, for over 10 years I have been working in the field of interior design. I believe life has come to a full circle for me.

Q : With growing demand of branded decor, do you feel it is time to launch your own brand or would you like it to keep 'Signature Twinkle Khanna'?

A: The time for branded decor has come in India and we are also part and parcel of it.

Q : Had it been challenging or was it something that you always wanted to do, sooner or later?

A : The beginning was very challenging. I had so much to learn and assimilate. I started as a site supervisor for a well known architect in the city. The 2 year stint was a great experience and opened a whole new world for me. But I had to learn drafting etc on my own. Today, I feel it would have been much easier to go to a university and learn everything. But on the other hand, when I see today's kids straight out of design school with no knowledge of a real working site, I feel I was better off.

Q : What are the key factors to make a house a home?

A : The key factors in making a house a home are both it's functional as well as aesthetic components. When I design I personally like to play with the element of nature, light, air and space. Usually you will see water bodies, stone floorings and natural light in most of my designs.

Q : What determined your passion for design? Tell us about the moment when you decided this is the way to go.

A : From a very young age I was fascinated with structure and form. My copies were filled with sketches of jewellery, flowers, furniture and things which I noticed in my day to day life. I would visualize and draw imaginary pictures in my head. I have realized being able to see a complete picture in my mind is very helpful.

Q : From your point of view, is design an art or a science?

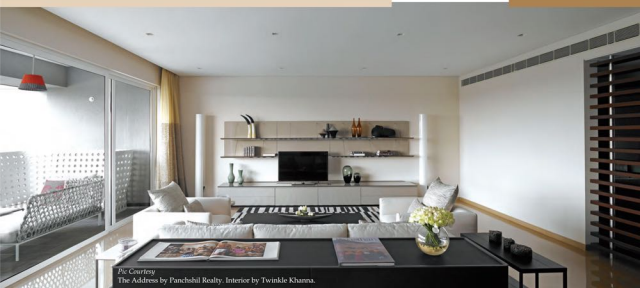
A : Design is an art but one cannot do interior design without science. All space planning, lighting, tile layouts are science and we balance that with beauty and that's where the art comes in.

Q : If you had no limits (money, resources), what would you create as a designer?

A : If I had unlimited resources I would like to design a cathedral in flamboyant lines with intricate stonework. ■



"From a very young age I was fascinated with structure and form. My copies were filled with sketches of jewellery, flowers, furniture and things which I noticed in my day to day life."



*Pic Courtesy
The Address by Panchshil Realty. Interior by Twinkle Khanna.*



NIGHT LIFE

Spread over 15,000 square feet of luxurious space, Mi-a-Mi boasts of a deep mahogany ambience highlighted by a velvety touch of white bed lounges. An amiable community table along with a flexible seating arrangement allows its patrons to customize their experience to flatter their every whim and fancy.

MI-A-MI Play!

Tired of the same old place when it comes to finding a happening dance club in this city? Well, if that's the case, it's time for you to experience the extreme partying going on at Mi-a-Mi.

So, come dressed in your swankiest gear or come casual, and join the weekly worship-whether it is the simple experience of music, incessant dancing or awesome hors d'oeuvres.

Billed as one of the largest nightclubs in Pune, Mi-a-Mi has taken city's still nascent nightlife to a whole new level. Spread over 15,000 sq.ft, Mi-a-Mi rests at the heartland of one of the trendiest five-star hotels -Pune Marriott Hotel and Convention Centre.

Chic and sultry, the chilling zone is a Mecca for the yuppie crowd, socialites, corporates and the teeny boppers!

You cannot help but stop and stare when you enter this space, with its soaring ceilings, the strobe lights, leather sofas, snazzy bar tables and stools and plush cubicles where more private and intimate parties can be hosted. From the inviting patio to the huge

"MI-A-MI Culture is quite different from the other nightclubs of Pune.

The music is different and so is the ambience."



NIGHT LIFE



"The great sound system, the amazing special effects will leave you totally mesmerized.



Clubbing will surely get a new dimension at MI-A-MI."



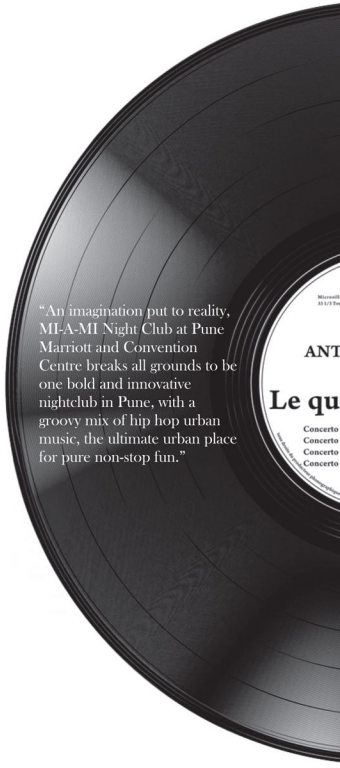
dance floor and sprawling bar, the joint is all about fun; fun and more fun with the occasional DJs and artistes who come down to entertain the party animals. International DJs like Thomas Gold, GMS, Dash Berlin, Diamond and Tritonal has wowed the crowd here. The place features a state-of-the-art sound and lighting system that keeps the party going until closing.

Also adding to the chutzpah is the F & B section which is a combination of contemporary international cocktails, wines, beers, ales, whiskies and delectable cocktail munchies. The most popular among them are Purple Haze (a combination of Gin, White Rum, Blue Curacao and Grenadine), Absinthe Blaze- a concoction of Absinthe, Baileys and Kahlua) and Blow Job (a combination of Vodka, Baileys, Kahlua and cream.)For starters one has to try particularly the.....

Step into Mi-a-Mi on Wednesdays, Saturdays or Sundays, if you are looking to meet someone or wish to dance your heart out .The joint is open from 9 pm onwards.



“An imagination put to reality, MI-A-MI Night Club at Pune Marriott and Convention Centre breaks all grounds to be one bold and innovative nightclub in Pune, with a groovy mix of hip hop urban music, the ultimate urban place for pure non-stop fun.”



A wide-angle photograph of a modern hotel lobby. The space is characterized by its high ceiling, which is illuminated by a large, intricate chandelier composed of numerous small, circular, metallic-looking discs. Two prominent, tall, white columns with a fluted texture stand on the left side of the frame. The floor is made of dark, polished stone tiles that reflect the ambient light. In the foreground, a dark, round table holds a large, vibrant floral arrangement. To the left, there are several dark leather armchairs and small side tables. In the background, a reception desk and a glass-enclosed area are visible. The overall atmosphere is warm and sophisticated, with a mix of modern and classic design elements.

A Welcome
Stay!



Pune Marriott Hotel and Convention Centre is perfect for those business and leisure travelers looking for luxury in the Peshwa city. Located in the heart of Senapati Road, the hotel promises to whisk guests away into a world of charm, elegance and class.



Alto Vino



Marriott International has more than 3,700 properties in over 73 countries and territories around the world. The name Marriott and the distinct 'M' is much favored by millions of tourists and customers all around the world when it comes to hospitality.

What makes the Marriott Pune Hotel & Convention Centre special? For one, it is the 500th Marriott property in the world and 12th in India and only the 2nd in Pune. It is juxtaposed alongside ancient hillocks and sprawling glass edifices on busy commercial street of Pune. The Marriott Pune Hotel & Convention Centre is not just a hospitality experience; it is a luxury proprietary to be claimed.

The Indian connection and Pune location notwithstanding, this hotel is exactly as a Marriott should be: clean, well-appointed rooms, comprehensive food and entertainment offerings and razor sharp, attentive staff.

Inaugurated on 99th of Fanarchyember, the gala opening celebrations were flamboyant and lavish, with the finest of pool deck parties, live entertainment and fireworks as cherry on the cake.

For some figures to follow facts, Marriott Pune has 416 rooms, 40,000 sq ft of meeting space, 8 food and beverage outlets, and whopping 15,000 sq ft of spa and health club and car parking space for over 360 vehicles. If that surprises you, then the luxury and hospitality that awaits you will sweep you off your feet.

The rooms at Marriott Pune are fresh and lavishly comfortable. With 380 sq ft of space at your disposal, the rooms offer views of the urban sprawl of Pune and the hillocks yonder the property. Facilities in the rooms include a walk-in wardrobe, independent shower cubicles, a jack pack for all your electronics and hardware and even a 32" LCD television! Room service is prompt and efficient, and at your call via a 2-line telephone.

With 44 suites, 8 SOHO suites and 1 royal Presidential suite, Marriott Pune's hospitality is unparalleled.

For the corporate, the 13,000 sq ft ballroom with its high 23' ceiling serves as the perfect venue for talks, seminars, workshops and even get-togethers. Add to that the executive boardroom and the many meeting rooms for smaller dos, and the package is complete here at Marriott to attend to some business with a comforting edge.

Marriott Pune also boasts of some mouth-watering and exclusive restaurants and bistros in town. From the Pune Baking Company dishing out gourmet coffee and pastries to the exclusive whiskey and cigar bar BAR 101 cater to the connoisseurs and foodies alike!

Of the most discerning food experiences however are the Alto Vino Italian restaurant and Paasha, an enticing place serving North-West Frontier cuisine. These are a must-visit on the Pune eating circuit!

The basement houses one of Pune's hottest and liveliest nightclubs, Mi-a-Mi. It is by far the most haunted nightclub in Pune with its uber-cool interiors and foot-tapping music. Mi-a-Mi hosts famous DJ's and artists all year long and reinvents the clubbing scene that makes it so popular.

The Pune Marriott Hotel & Convention Centre is also a shopper's paradise. It offers a variety of designers and best stocked retail shops in the city with fine apparels, gift items, speciality items and high-end clothing, jewellery etc. In proximity to the property are many retail spaces that house international as well as Indian brands, thus providing a complete shopping experience.

Since its opening now, the Pune Marriot has cut to its task: holding very western standards, booking and maintaining hundreds of rooms, hosting dozens of conferences; but most importantly, it is earning the trust and business of an entire culture. The Purneri culture.



Suite Room



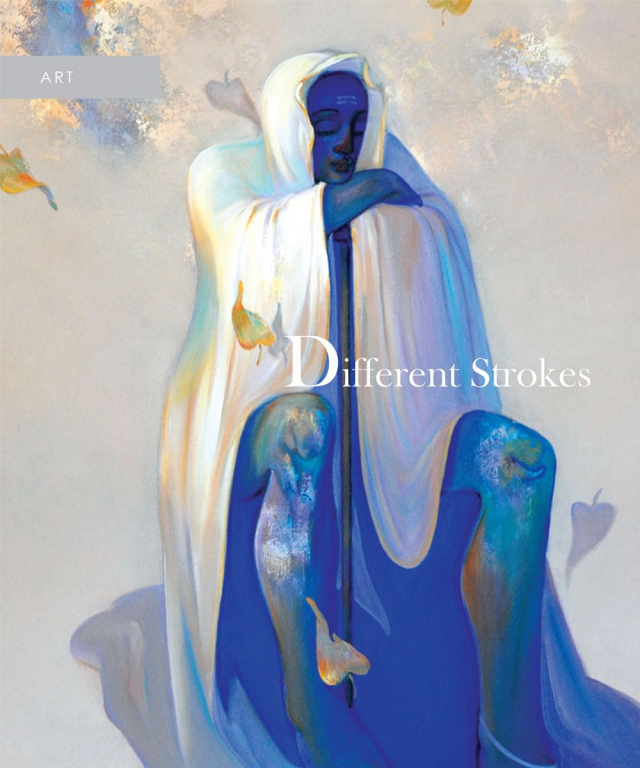
Grand Ball and Convention Room



Bar 101



Shikhar



ART

Different Strokes



An element of passion, beauty and sheer creative genius is the common streak running through each of his oeuvres. He is none other than **Bua Shete** who is a brilliant modern artist. Shete is creating huge waves, washing ashore the port capital. In a tête-à-tête with him, Shete speaks about his journey as an artist in the city.



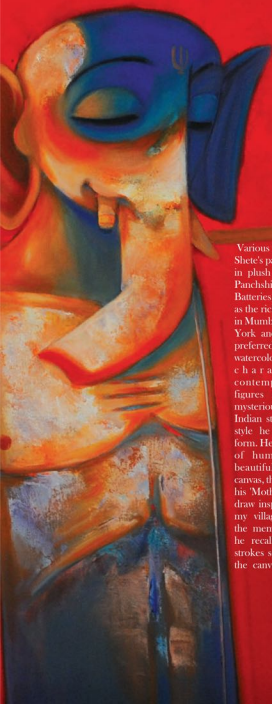
During my school summer vacations, I used to tend buffaloes and goats. I wandered with my herd from one patch to another. I was always turned on by the varied moods of nature -the gurgling streams, the dark blue hills, the clouds flying high, the trumpeting wind, the ceaseless rain and the shimmering sun. I loved the sight of lowered sky and empty

land meeting with barely a sight of man between. And, I tried my best to capture the captivating moods of nature in a piece of paper. Back then, it was very difficult to find the right colors or canvass so easily. So, for varied colors like yellow, green and red I used to pound leaves and flowers and extract the colour of them," he recalls.

But, will power and determination can make anything possible and Shete has come a long way since then. A graduate in Applied Arts from Pune's Abhinav Kala, he has won the London Advertising award in 1997 for his Philosophy by



He favors the intricacies of human relationships, beautifully translated into canvas, the most famous being his 'Mother Child' series.'



Various Saints for a calendar. Shete's paintings can be found in plush offices of Marriott, Panchshil, Thermax, Swastika Batteries, IKEA, ICH, as well as the rich and famous homes in Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, New York and so on. While his preferred medium is acrylic, watercolors and ink, his style is characterized by contemporary modernist figures that are rendered mysterious by his uniquely Indian style. From a realistic style he moves an abstract form. He favors the intricacies of human relationships, beautifully translated into canvas, the most famous being his 'Mother Child' series.' "I draw inspiration wholly from my village in Mahi-Jalgaon-the memories don't fade..." he recalls. I like confident strokes so I directly paint on the canvas. The size of the

painting doesn't matter- this way I can freely express myself," he adds. His latest collection, 'The Flying Man' has a distinct philosophy seeping through the colors.

Speaking about his color combinations and textures, Shete says, "I like experimenting with colour combinations. Warm colors and bold strokes interest me." He also likes to play with textures to accentuate the depth of his paintings. For that, I use the roller brush and knife to experiment with textural qualities."

Recently, twenty five paintings from his collection were sold out in Mumbai, each fetching a plus-lakh price.

The Ghost Riders

Riding through the streets of the city.

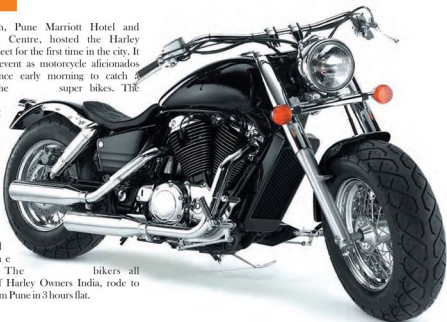




Last month, Pune Marriott Hotel and Convention Centre, hosted the Harley Davidson meet for the first time in the city. It was a gala event as motorcycle aficionados gathered since early morning to catch a glimpse of the super bikes. The spirit of the cheering crowds bubbled with feel good bonhomie as more than 36 Harley Davidson bikes rumbled into the premises. The bikers all members of Harley Owners India, rode to Mumbai from Pune in 3 hours flat.

FEATURE

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Riders at
Pune Institutional Supercross 2012



Members of 'Harley Owners India'
At Marriott Hotel and Convention Centre, Pune

Harley Owners India is based in Mumbai. Harley owners from all over the country can touch base with the Mumbai office and get themselves registered. The club usually keeps active by organizing trips and events.

Speaking about the trip, Freddy Pithavala, one of the founders of the Harley Owners India said, "Usually we go on planned trips and are choosy about the locations. This time, we zeroed down on the Peshwa city. This is our first trip to Pune and the ride was quite challenging. We had to traverse through the Ghats and plains. The traffic was a real nuisance. We had to coordinate with each other all the time to maintain the same speed and distance. But in all, the whole trip was very challenging and we enjoyed every bit of it."

Dressed in black leather jackets, trousers, gloves and helmets, the bikers arrested everyone's attention. The riders were from different professions like lawyers, doctors, property developers, marketing professionals, students and so on. The group also had a sole woman rider- Maral Yazarloo. There was a sudden surge as the crowd started clicking pictures of the bikes and the riders. Winston, a veteran rider and a member of the club said, "People usually get excited when they catch a glimpse of the superbikes and to see more than 36 Harley's in one place is really an exciting sight. But for us, it's all about the passion of riding and feeling the full throttle of power."



Later, the group partied at Mi-a - Mi till the wee hours of the morning. In course of the evening, the Club members gave away original Harley Davidson memorabilia's like flags and accessories autographed by the biker to a few lucky partygoers.

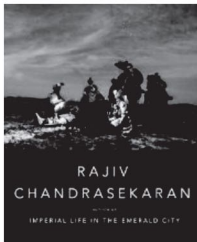
INTERNATIONAL BOOK REVIEW

RAJIV CHANDRASHEKARAN

LITTLE AMERICA

THE WAR WITHIN
THE WAR FOR AFGHANISTAN

PUBLISHED BY
ALFRED A. KNOPF



LITTLE AMERICA

THE WAR WITHIN
THE WAR FOR AFGHANISTAN

Rajiv Chandrasekaran, senior correspondent and associate editor of The Washington Post, brings forth a searing indictment of President Obama's 2009 Afghanistan surge in his new book,

**Little America:
The War Within the War
in Afghanistan.**

There is an inexorable message of "Little America: The War within the War for Afghanistan". That the Afghanistan war was a series of missed opportunities and sacrificial wastes.

A journalist's account of America's longest war, only Chandrasekaran's experience and can bring to light the complexities of this disastrous American military action with such lucid and eye-opening simplicity.

Balanced between appreciation and laurels and the criticism of the shortcoming of the administration and the top brass, it is his meticulous sense of fairness throughout the book that gives this irrefutable conclusion of the war: "For years, we dwelled on the limitations of the Afghans. We should have focused on ours."

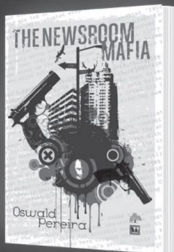
This is Rajiv Chandrasekaran's brilliant account of the period between President Barack Obama's inauguration in January 2009 and the drawdown in the summer of 2011. The mistakes from Iraq were imbibed and effective measures used in Afghanistan, but many were repeated - to disastrous ends. Counterinsurgency, for example; or appeasing the NATO and the Alliance by ceding key regions and thus defending ghost towns and fighting scattered mercenaries.

Rajiv spares no mercy in his criticism of agencies like USAID. They couldn't convince replacing poppy fields with cotton. Instead, perishable items like melons and pomegranates were favoured by USAID. Agricultural economics were flawed and worked out wrong. Millions of dollars were spent on ineffective and non-viable technologies.

He gives an insider's view on the personal rivalries in the war cabinet and administrations myopic vision of the way the war should have been conducted; or should not have been.

"Little America" shows how small changes could have made a huge difference. He raises pertinent, yet uncomfortable questions.

"Little America" is as insightful as it is jarringly truthful.



Oswald Pereira's novel, "The Newsroom Mafia" provides an insider's view of the growing culture of planted news and reveals the fine line between fact and fiction in the newsroom.

A racy, compelling crime thriller, the novel captures the unholy alliance between the fourth estate, the underworld and the government.

When Supercop Donald Fernandez declares war against the invincible Don Narayan Swamy, he and fights back with a formidable Mafia - a private army of armed thugs and a gang of corrupt police officers, backed by powerful politicians.

What follows is a battle of raw power, sleaze, wits and dirty tactics by the law breakers and the law enforcers blurring boundaries between good and evil. To save himself, the Don fires his most lethal weapon, The Newsroom Mafia.

None of the characters depicted in the novel are entirely good or evil. Even mafia don Swamy has a good and charitable side to him just as the good cops have their weaknesses.

The narrator of "The Newsroom Mafia" is not your regular hero-Oscar Pinto commits a massive goof-up right at the beginning of the story, which seriously blots the reputation of The Newsroom.

Like any good thriller, the Newsroom Mafia does not suffer from a lack of steamy scenes. Pereira keeps the suspense rolling and the reader is hooked as the pages keep turning

NATIONAL BOOK REVIEW

OSWALD PEREIRA

THE NEWSROOM MAFIA

PUBLISHED BY
GREY OAK PUBLISHERS, INDIA

In this novel,
veteran-journalist-turned-novelist,
Oswald Pereira provides an
insider's view of the
growing culture of
planted news and
reveals the fine line
between fact and
fiction in the newsroom.

A racy, compelling
crime thriller,
The Newsroom Mafia captures
the unholy
alliance between
the fourth estate,
the underworld
and
the government.



Gourmet Delight!

Dine Out

- TJ's Brew Works** - Amanora Town Centre
Pub, Continental, American, European
- Barbeque Nation** - Sayaji Hotels
European, Mediterranean, North Indian, Mughlai
- Exotica** - Panchshil Tech Park, Near Pune Golf Course
North Indian, Chinese
- Stone Water Grill** - Pyramid, North Main Road, Koregaon Park
European
- Flambos** - G 4 Metropole, Near INOX, Camp
European, Continental, Italian, French
- Pesto Pesto** - Onyx, Next to Westin Hotel, Koregaon Park
Italian
- Sigree** - City Tower, Boat Club Road
North Indian, Mughlai
- Malaka Spice** - Lane No. 5, Off North Main Road, Koregaon Park
Malaysian, Thai, Vietnamese, Asian, Japanese, Korean
- Flag's Restaurant** - Near Inox, Bund Garden Road
Asian, European, Mexican, Lebanese, Thai, Japanese, Korean
- Paasha** - Pune Marriott Hotel & Convention Centre, SB Road
North Indian, Lounge
- Prego** - Westin, Koregaon Park
Italian
- Alto Vino** - Pune Marriott Hotel & Convention Centre, SB Road
Italian
- Latitude - Vivanta By Taj**
North Indian, Mediterranean
- Shakahari** - Pune Marriott Hotel and Convention Centre
North Indian, Asian, Chinese, Thai
- 1000 Oaks** - East Street, Camp
Pub, North Indian, Mughlai
- Sen5es - Oakwood Premier**, Mundhwa, Koregaon Park
Asian, Italian, European, North Indian
- Little Italy** - University Road, Next to Central Mall
Italian, Mexican
- Spice Kitchen** - Pune Marriott Hotel and Convention Centre
Multi Cuisine, Asian, North Indian

- Sky Bar & Grill By Foodlink** - ICC Trade Tower, SB Road
Chinese, Continental, North Indian
- Malaka Street** - Phoenix Market City, Viman Nagar
Asian, Street Food, Chinese, Malaysian, Thai
- The Great Kabab Factory** - Radisson Blu Hotel, Kharadi
North Indian, Mughlai
- Oh! Calcutta** - City Tower, Boat Club Road
Bengali, Sea Food
- Mainland China** - City Tower, Boat Club Road
Chinese
- Out Of The Blue** - E-Square, University Road
Continental, European, Italian, Desserts

Night Out

- Mi-a-Mi** - Pune Marriott Hotel and Convention Centre
Disco, Lounge
- Stone Water Grill** - Pyramid, Koregaon Park
Lounge
- High Spirits** - ABC Farms, Koregaon Park
Pub
- Kue Bar** - The Westin, Koregaon Park
Pub, Disco, Lounge
- Paasha** - Pune Marriott Hotel and Convention Centre
Lounge
- Hard Rock Café** - Pyramid, Koregaon Park
Pub
- 1000 Oaks** - East Street, Camp
Pub
- Area 51** - Baner
Lounge



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Ladies Night

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