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CORPORATE BUSINESS, AVIATION, MICE & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

JUNE 2017 | ₹50



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HANNELI SLABBER INAUGURATES SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Hanneli Slabber, Country Manager, South African Tourism India, inaugurated the South African Safari, a food festival, and B2C destination showcase at Sofitel Mumbai BKC, to celebrate South Africa's 23rd Freedom Day. With its incomparable natural beauty, authentic wildlife experiences and 130+ adventure activities to choose from, South Africa has emerged as a hot favorite amongst Indian travellers. Besides wildlife, adventure, family holidays and nightlife, South Africa also positions cuisine among its top tourist experiences. South African food is new, exciting and flavourful for most visitors.



CARLSON REZIDOR HOTEL GROUP PARTNERS DINEOUT IN INDIA



Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group announced its partnership with Dineout, one of India's largest table reservation and restaurant promotion services. The partnership will add breadth to the 'local connection' and brand positioning to resonate with tech-savvy diners.

"Consumers have an increasing penchant for technology and the driving force for the initiative is to deliver better customer experience. We are buoyed by the success of our pilot project with Dineout and see many more opportunities of success with our continued partnership," said Sandy Russell, Vice President, Asia Pacific, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group.

"With the evolving technological landscape aided by increased Internet penetration and use of smartphones, we recognise the need to provide a solution for our F&B outlets and are happy to partner with Dineout, India's premier table reservation service," said Raj Rana, Chief Executive Officer, South Asia, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group.

"Our partnership with Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group has been a very fruitful one and we are looking forward to helping them accelerate their growth in their F&B segments this year," said Ankit Mehrotra, Co-founder, Dineout.



YATRA APPOINTS RANBIR KAPOOR AS BRAND AMBASSADOR

Yatra.com announced Bollywood superstar and youth icon, Ranbir Kapoor, as their brand ambassador. Speaking on the association, Sharat Dhall, COO(B2C), Yatra.com, said, "We welcome him to the Yatra family and hope that with this association we are able to create a strong impact in the minds of our audiences and customers at large."

Speaking on the partnership, Ranbir Kapoor said, "I am delighted to be associated with Yatra.com, which has been a preferred travel partner for millions of Indian customers."

Commenting on the occasion, Vikrant Mudaliar, Chief Marketing Officer, Yatra.com, said, "With Ranbir Kapoor coming on board, we are confident of strengthening Yatra's brand appeal and recall amongst our customers."



ADIYOGI SETS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

The 112ft face of Adiyogi – the Source of Yoga, designed, consecrated by Sadhguru, Founder, Isha Foundation, and unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Mahashivaratri, has been listed as the largest bust in the world by Guinness World Record. Describing the significance of Adiyogi, Sadhguru says, "There is no culture that did not benefit from Adiyogi's science of yoga. Yoga went everywhere not as a religion, belief system or philosophy, but as methods."

CRAFTING EXEMPLARY EXPERIENCES

In conversation with Yasser Noman, Group CEO and CEO, Arabian Explorers

TT BUREAU

Arabian Explorers is a 26-year-old Destination Management Company (Est.1991) for the UAE, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar, offering services and solutions to a wide range of clients, including tour operators, travel agents, Corporates and Governments. And with Noman at the helm of affairs, as the Group CEO of Arabian Explorers and its sister companies, the company is set on a path of excellence and growth.

What kind of products are you offering for the India market?

With our own dedicated team for the India Market, we are already in the process of completing some exclusive and extensive packages that are sure to delight our target customers.

Our approach is unique, because of our focussed strategy which ensures a specialised and unique way when it comes to varied multi-cultural festivals, celebrations, occasions and much more. Giving our Indian customers a unique experience right from the moment they land to the time they leave is our forte. From multi-linguistic travel agents and guides to specialised drivers, we ensure that we provide them a home-away-from-home experience.

We have seen that incentive travel is one of the fastest growing segments within India's outbound MICE movement – in providing a selection of customised, value-added experiences that cater to the tastes of this important market. We have also introduced a Luxury Segment, specifically tailor-made for the India market.

Your USP that sets you apart from other travel offerings in the Middle East

We are actually known in the Industry as the Destination Management Company with an edge. Travel is at the core of



what we do and we try to capture its essence in all the offerings that we provide. Our facilitators include brilliant market leaders heading each division of our company with over 20 years

of experience in varied markets. Our outstanding and prestigious team, remarkable client care and passion for travel, and the fact that we are one of the oldest DMCs in Dubai, reiterates our positioning as being

the perfect go-to travel company for all discerning travellers. We are committed to people and relationships, not just experiences.



“Crafting unique travel experiences, launching great concepts and making clients happy since 1991, Arabian Explorers is all this and much more.”

What do you hope to achieve in the first year of operation in the India market?

Dubai is one of the most popular destinations for tourists from India, and at the same time, India is one of the most important markets for Dubai. That is why our key focus is to ensure that the India market, which is set to contribute 36 per cent of our YoY Revenue, remains our priority. With over 800 flights going back and forth from India, with an average reach of 15 cities, we have a huge potential that we are in the process of leveraging to our advantage.

With the UAE Government announcing Visa on Arrival for Indian passport holders carrying a Valid US Visa or Greencard, we are sure that this will create a rise in overall travel to the region.



ACCORHOTELS LAUNCHES NOVOTEL IN LUCKNOW

AccorHotels announced the opening of Uttar Pradesh's first Novotel in the capital city of Lucknow - Novotel Lucknow, Gomti Nagar.

The business hotel is strategically located in the heart of the city's commercial hub – Gomti Nagar, a short drive from Lucknow airport

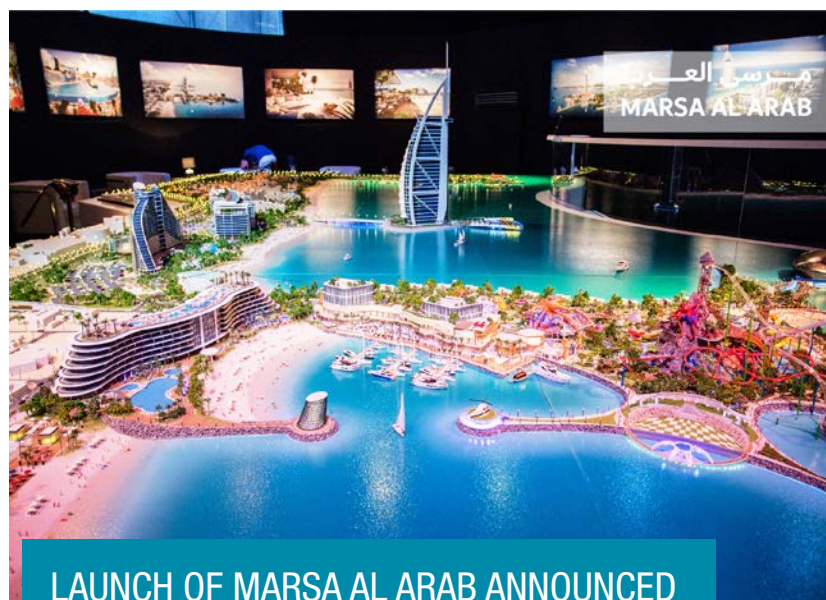


and railway station.

Jean-Michel Cassé, Chief Operating Officer, India & South Asia, AccorHotels, said, "It is the confluence of culture and business that makes Lucknow

a compelling destination for travellers and we are delighted to open our very first Novotel property here."

Raj Singh, General Manager, Novotel Lucknow, Gomti Nagar, said, "With Novotel Lucknow Gomti Nagar's contemporary 'home-away from-home' stay experience, assortment of dining outlets and meeting spaces, we are set to define new paradigms in the hospitality industry to meet the city's tourism growth."



LAUNCH OF MARSA AL ARAB ANNOUNCED

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, visited Dubai Holding, the global investment holding company, where he announced the launch of 'Marsa Al Arab'. The comprehensive tourist destination aims to elevate the family tourism proposition in Dubai; provide supporting foundations to host Expo2020 Dubai, as well as reinforce Jumeirah Group's leading position locally and globally as one of the driving forces behind the growth and prosperity of the tourism sector.

Commenting on the project, His Excellency said, "The launch of this new and ambitious project is in line with the directives of the visionary leadership to provide the finest and most rewarding tourist experiences for visitors to Dubai, as well as enhance Dubai's position as a global tourist destination."

Daniel Lamarre, President and CEO of Cirque du Soleil, also commented: "Dubai's unique geographical position between East and West, along with its regionally unparalleled infrastructure and sophisticated hospitality offering means that demand is strong for a beloved and enduring institution such as Cirque du Soleil, and we look forward to raising the curtain for new fans in this new facility with new shows designed specifically for Dubai."

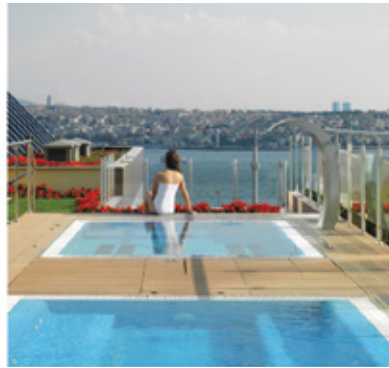


SOFITEL MUMBAI BKC LAUNCHES VINOThÉQUE

Sofitel Mumbai BKC launched their Wine Library "Vinothèque," at Artisan. Wine is a celebration of their French heritage and lineage, and symbolises the luxury quotient that the property brings to the city. Biswajit Chakraborty, General Manager, Sofitel Mumbai BKC, says, "Modern India has created changing tastes and habits. Wine has gained cultural acceptance, perceived as a 'family drink' that could be consumed at home or socially."

GREESHM UTSAV-2017

Delhi Tourism, as part of its initiative to promote Tourism in Delhi, is organising 'GREESHM UTSAV-2017,' in association with the Delhi Kalyan Samiti, under the aegis of the Delhi Government at Dilli Haat - Pitampura; Dilli Haat - Janakpuri; Dilli Haat - INA; Garden of Five Senses and Haritima Tourist Complex, Kanganheri – an Eco Tourism complex of DTTDC, till June 18, 2017. This summer extravaganza will include several performances by various renowned artists from all over the country and will also host a series of cultural activities. The festival will be a great experience for music and travel geeks who love to explore these horizons.



The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul

Located in the heart of the city overlooking the Bosphorus, The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul features 243 guest rooms with its impeccable service and luxurious comfort.

More than 2,403 square meters of meeting and conference space including 11 meeting rooms and 1 Ballroom, highlighted by a magnificent Bosphorus view, are available for memorable events with superb catering, high-speed internet, state-of-the-art audio-visual services and technicians.

Guests at "Bleu Lounge" can enjoy full views of the Bosphorus while sampling creative cocktails and Mediterranean inspired dishes at our terrace restaurant.

The Ritz-Carlton Spa offers 8 treatment rooms, a unique 17-metre indoor pool and authentic Turkish Hammam, spread over an area of 1,500 sqm as well as 'Open Air Spa' terrace with jacuzzis, a sunbathing terrace, massage rooms and a pool.

Experience the stay of a life-time at The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul

*Please contact with us for more information and reservation via
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THE RITZ-CARLTON

ISTANBUL



ITDC-ICPB HOSTS ROADSHOW AT THE ASHOK

India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) – the Public Sector Undertaking under the aegis of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India – hosted a Roadshow in collaboration with India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB), at The Ashok Hotel.

Addressing the gathering, Piyush Tiwari, Officiating Chairman & MD & Director (Commercial & Marketing), ITDC, said, “India is working at both macro and micro levels towards significantly increasing market share of the Global Conventions business by 2025, from its current share of less than 1%, as per ICCA statistics.”

Speaking on the occasion, Amaresh Tiwari, Honorary Secretary, ICPB, said: “It is a pleasure to be partnering with ITDC. We are pleased that State Tourism Boards are joining as lifetime members of ICPB to promote the Convention in their respective states.”



THE LEELA AMBIENCE CONVENTION HOTEL HOSTS BLOOD DONATION CAMP

The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel hosted a blood donation camp in memory of the late Founder Chairman, Captain CP Krishnan Nair of The Leela Group. The objective was to pay tribute to their late Founder Chairman who was an avid advocate and ardent supporter of contributing to the welfare of the society. The camp was organised in partnership with The Lions Blood Bank, Shalimar Bagh.

Speaking on the importance of the organisation of the blood donation camp Jaideep Anand, General Manager of The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, said, “This is the third death anniversary of our Founder Chairman, Captain CP Krishnan Nair, and he would have been 95-years-old today. To celebrate this momentous milestone, 95 employees from each of The Leela hotels have donated blood that will contribute towards saving lives. We hope to follow the principles of our founder and are confident that this feeling of gratitude will stay with us and guide us to always do and aim for the better.”



OYO LAUNCHES TOWNHOUSE IN HYDERABAD

OYO recently introduced OYO Townhouse to Hyderabad. This is the first launch of OYO Townhouse – a brand new category of “Friendly Neighbourhood Hotel” – outside Delhi NCR. Hyderabad’s first OYO Townhouse is situated at Road no. 55, Jubilee Hills, beside Peddamma Temple main gate. This will be the fifth hotel in the Townhouse portfolio since it was launched in January this year.

Ritesh Agarwal, Founder & CEO - OYO, said “This is our first Townhouse offering outside Delhi NCR and we are excited to choose Hyderabad for our debut outside home turf. Hyderabad has transformed into a cosmopolitan city representing a millennial outlook towards experiences and expectations. OYO Townhouse’s efficient hospitality and multi-utility concept fits perfectly into this millennial lifestyle.”

HOSPITALITY UNRIVALLED

In conversation with Can Goktas, General Manager, The Ritz Carlton, Istanbul

KAMAL GILL



What are the challenges that you faced in your role as the General Manager of The Ritz Carlton, Istanbul?

I cannot say challenges, but more opportunities, the biggest opportunity being market conditions. Of course, the great service meted out by our impeccable staff helps us retain our guests. However, due to fluctuating business trends we are facing problems with planning for the future. Apart from that, I love working with the team in the hotel and I believe that we have a strong team which is committed to perfection at The Ritz Carlton, Istanbul.



What distinctive experiences do you offer your Indian guests?

Indian guests are discerning world travellers, they really can appreciate the cultural richness of Turkey as well as its food and flavours. We welcome our guests with traditional Indian costumes by reflecting Turkish hospitality, and we have extended our breakfast items to include Indian spices and Masala Chai.

The city of Istanbul is becoming more and more favourable towards the Indian market, which has led to a steady growth of interest. Istanbul's popularity is one of the reasons why we have had the pleasure of hosting several Indian weddings. Our ballroom is very convenient for traditional celebrations.



What are the trends that you noticed in the preferences of Indian leisure and luxury travellers?

One of the strongest interest points of Indian guests are the many cultural attractions and historical sites Istanbul has to offer. Also, Indian travellers are keen to visit high-end shopping areas,

“One of the strongest interest points of Indian guests are the many cultural attractions and historical sites Istanbul has to offer.”

which can all be easily reached within few a minutes from the hotel.

Turkish culture and history and the large variety of flavours and dishes are attracting more and more Indian travellers, who appreciate the cultural richness of Istanbul, as also the amazing night life of the city.



PREFERRED HOTELS & RESORTS WELCOMES 32 NEW MEMBER HOTELS

Preferred Hotels & Resorts welcomed 32 new member hotels across 15 countries to its brand portfolio, from January through April 2017. With growth ranging from a pristine private island retreat in the Maldives and a world-acclaimed golf resort in Scotland to city-centre hotels in destinations from Seoul to Savannah, these new properties represent the company's commitment to partner with independent hotels and resorts that exemplify #ThePreferredLife. Highlights of the newest hospitality experiences within the Preferred Hotels & Resorts portfolio include: Coco Privé – Male, Maldives; Hotel Californian – Santa Barbara, California; Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa – Scotland, United Kingdom; Myconian Villa Collection – Mykonos, Greece, among many others.



IHG LAUNCHES NSO FOR SOUTHWEST ASIA

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG®) announced the launch of National Sales Office (NSO) in Southwest Asia (SWA), offering a central point of contact for IHG's growing number of hotels in the region. The NSO team, consisting of 28 associates, will support hotel-based sales teams in SWA and corporate sales teams around the world, in growing business, loyalty and customer satisfaction in the market.

Speaking on the launch, Shantha de Silva, Head of South West Asia, IHG, said "Following a successful pilot with positive feedback from owners and key account representatives, we have opened the NSO to provide clients with a central point of contact through which to book IHG hotels and raise brand awareness in this fast growing market."

ROYAL ORCHID HOTELS LAUNCHES HOTEL IN MYSORE

Royal Orchid Hotels Limited announced the launch of its third hotel in Mysore with Regenta Central Herald. On the occasion of the launch, Chander Baljee, Chairman & MD, Royal Orchid Hotels Limited, stated, "As we embark on this expansion drive, we are very particular in identifying strategic, high value markets that present a unique fit for our time tested services and ambitious growth plans."



where a high level of dedication and expertise is demonstrated in managing brands and hotels successfully," said Dharmendra Bhandari, Managing Director, Bestech Hospitality.

"We are proud to partner Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group in India and delighted to grow the relationship further, to develop Radisson RED and Park Inn by Radisson across Central and North India," said Sunil Satija, Managing Director, Bestech Hospitality.

PARK PLAZA NOIDA RELAUNCHES AS RADISSON NOIDA

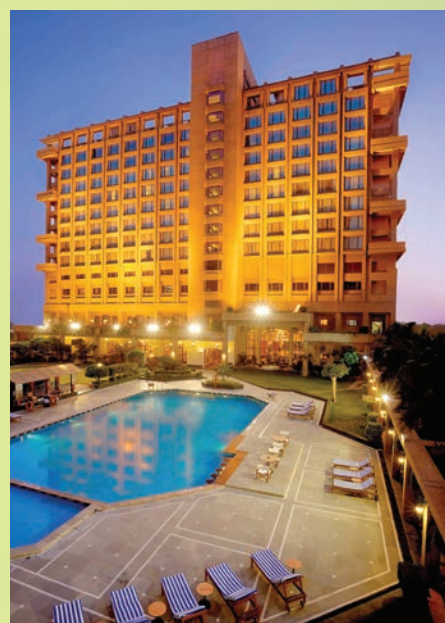
Park Plaza Noida announced its rebranding to Radisson Noida – a brand synonymous with outstanding service and comfort. It will be the first Radisson hotel to be inaugurated in Delhi NCR. "I am delighted to welcome this hotel to the Radisson brand family. Delhi NCR is a key market for us and Noida remains a promising destination due to its thriving corporate suburb," said Raj Rana, Chief Executive Officer, South Asia, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group.

"We have enjoyed working with Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group for 15 years,

SOUTHWEST WALES LAUNCHES NEW ARTHUR COUNTRY TRAIL

Fit for a king and with the option to leave no stone unturned, a new trail across Southwest Wales aims to bring to life the mystery that surrounds the story of Britain's best and bravest knight, the legendary Arthur. The trail, which can be viewed at www.southwest.wales, has been designed so that visitors can cherry-pick sites that interest them most or take in the whole lot on a road trip over a mini-break or longer. There are accommodation suggestions as well as alternatives to Arthur attractions should you get distracted by beautiful scenery, picturesque villages and welcoming pubs and cafes on route.





PLANNED TO PERFECTION

Eros Hotel at Nehru Place, New Delhi, understands that your wedding is more than a ceremony and offers the perfect setting for your dream day

TT BUREAU

Amidst its 5-star rating, Eros Hotel, New Delhi, takes delight in offering exceptional services for your wedding including enormous space, proficient support and skillful expertise. The hotel offers state-of-the-art infrastructure for events and an uncompromising dedication for excellence. With several indoor and outdoor spaces for a wedding venue to a team of dedicated hospitality staff to support everything, Eros Hotel New Delhi is your one-stop wedding destination.

Wrapped in the everlasting exuberance of magnificence, Eros Hotel is your ideal wedding destination that caters to all your needs as it offers numerous choices in terms of venue, spa and bridal packages, décor themes, wedding consultants and much more.

Spread across 25,000sq.ft, Eros Hotel's banqueting space can accommodate up to 2,000 guests. It provides state-of-the-art technical capabilities and a proficient team which promises to make your dream wedding into reality. Right



from the flower arrangements to the finer details, everything at Eros Hotel is taken care of.

With luxurious, stylish and multi-functional contemporary spaces, celebrate the most auspicious day of your life in style and grandeur in the ideal wedding place that offers elegant settings decorated to your desire.

Wine and fine dining is an integral part of every wedding. The team specialises in providing you with a customised menu designed to your taste. Not to forget, set menus will give you enough choices to

choose from and will make your decision easier and hassle-free.

The hotel promises to make you look stunning and radiant on your special day by providing special bridal packages because every fairytale wedding needs its princess.

A wedding is the most auspicious event in a person's life and marks the beginning of an intimate companionship together. And, whether you want a small intimate affair or a big fat wedding bash, the hotel is committed to transform your dream wedding into reality. At Eros Hotel, your special day takes on a whole new meaning.

ITQ ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF -STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2017 CONTEST

InterGlobe Technology Quotient's (ITQ) search for the 4th Student of the Year comes to an end with a bang. With stupendous support from the entire travel fraternity, the Top 5 contestants deliver their optimum best to prove their mettle. The Grand Finale of the contest was organised in New Delhi on May 5, 2017, and was judged by Geeta Jain, CEO – Carlson Wagonlit Travel, Ashish Kumar, Managing Partner - Agnitio Consulting LLP and Dr M Sajani, Dean Faculty of Hospitality & Tourism and Director, Amity Institute of Travel and Tourism. The event



From left: Anil Parashar (CEO-ITQ), Diptadeep Ghosh (3rd runner up), Sandeep Dwivedi (CCO-ITQ), Prof. Dr. Sajani-Amity Inst. Of Travel & Tourism (Jury Member), Genevieve Charlette (4th runner up) –Behind her- H.E. Ms. Cristina Tarteata (Secretary of State, Min. of Tourism Romania), Sneha Parmar (Winner), Bhavesh Bhatia (1st runner up), Tanveen Kaur (2nd runner up), –Behind Bhavesh- H.E. Mr. Radu Dobre (Ambassador of Romania to India), Ashish Kumar, Managing Partner-Agnitio Consulting (Jury Member) and Geeta Jain CEO-Carlson Wagonlit Travel (Jury Member)

flourished more with the presence of HE Cristina Tarteata, Secretary of State, Ministry of Tourism, Government of Romania and HE Radu Octavian Dobre, Ambassador of Romania to India, who attended the grand finale with their delegation and presented the awards to winners.

Sandeep Dwivedi, Chief Commercial Officer, ITQ, adds, "Student of the Year invites nominations from mentees who are at a stage where the possibilities with their careers are limitless. We offer just a platform that acknowledges their potential and helps them venture on in their journey to rise high."



ADTOI ORGANISES FAM TRIP TO MUSSOORIE

ADTOI organised a Fam trip for 20 active members to Hotel Dunsvirk Court Mussoorie, from May 12 to 14, 2017. Hotel Dunsvirk Court hosted two nights' accommodation with all meals. ADTOI arranged A/C transportation for members for their journey to and fro Mussoorie. The feedback on this educational tour received from the participating members was very good.

THOMAS COOK INDIA GROUP INKS AGREEMENT

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd announced its acquisition of Kuoni's global network of Destination Management Specialists, covering 17 countries across the geographies of The Americas, Africa, Middle East, Asia and Australia. The transaction will be completed post customary closing conditions.

Madhavan Menon, Chairman & Managing Director, Thomas Cook India Group, said, "In keeping with the Fairfax strategic intent of fair and friendly acquisitions, our agreement to acquire Kuoni's global network of Destination Management Specialists in 17 countries provides us a significant expanded global footprint with enhanced presence in The Americas, Middle East, Africa, Asia and Australia – all favoured destinations for tourists and business travellers worldwide."



KAPIL DEV GETS CAST IN WAX AT MADAME TUSSAUDS

Madame Tussauds Delhi unveiled cricket legend Kapil Dev's wax figure as the next celebrity entrant to the attraction. The zealous cricket maestro will be present amongst sports heroes where fans will have the unique chance to test their cricket skills in a special dedicated area.

During the sitting session he expressed, "I am thankful to my fans who have paved my way to Madame Tussauds."

Anshul Jain, General Manager and Director, Merlin Entertainments India Pvt Ltd, shares his views, saying, "Kapil Dev has been one of the most popular Indian cricket icons and rightly deserves a place in Madame Tussauds Delhi".



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Discover Unexpected Flavours At Le Méridien Dhaka

Offering sophisticated cuisine that is rooted in tradition yet informed by the unique local ingredients of the destination, Le Méridien Dhaka adds a decidedly modern twist to classic dishes with the Dhaka's largest configuration of premium dining restaurants and bars under one roof.

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APPOINTMENTS



ERIC de NEEF has been appointed as the Executive Vice President, Global Chief Branding & Commercial Officer of Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group. In his new role, Eric de Neef, currently Executive Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer of Rezidor Hotel Group (EMEA), will assume additional responsibilities and lead the Branding and Commercial organisation for the Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group globally.



THOMAS VAUCOULEUR de VILLE d'AVRAY has been appointed as General Manager at W Maldives. With 17 years of hospitality experience, d'Avray will be responsible for the overall operation of W Maldives, providing strategic and inspirational leadership to his onsite team and delivering distinguished W experience to the hotel guests and clients.



ROHIT VERMA has been appointed as General Manager of RS Sarovar Portico Palampur. A passionate hotelier with over 16 years of experience in hospitality, Verma brings with him a hands-on experience in Operation Management, Inventory Management, Quality – Customer Relationship Management and Team Management.



PANKAJ WADHWA has been named Director of Sales & Marketing for Sofitel Mumbai BKC. In his role, Wadhwa will be responsible for leading and further improving all aspects of the sales and marketing communications, promoting brand strategies and providing the best of Sofitel hospitality experience to the guests.



AMANPREET SINGH SANDHU has been appointed as Director of Sales and Marketing at Eros Hotel, New Delhi, Nehru Place. Graduated from ESSEC Business School, France, he has an experience of over 13 years in Revenue Management, Sales & Marketing

and Hotel Operations. He will be responsible for charting out strategies towards enhancing business volumes by cementing a healthy relationship with key clients and leading workforce in accomplishing business goals.



RUSSELL LOUGHLAND has been designated Director of Sales and Marketing at Palazzo Versace Dubai. With over 25 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Loughland, in his current position, will be directly responsible for overseeing the implementation of the sales and marketing strategy in line with driving growth regionally and internationally.



ALOK KAUL has been designated as Director of Operations at JW Marriott New Delhi Aerocity. With an experience of more than two decades in hospitality, Alok is a seasoned professional with a strong luxury background. His extensive experience has helped in generating ROI and creating lifelong relationships.



RAHUL YADAV has been appointed as Director of Spa at JW Marriott New Delhi Aerocity. In a career spanning 13 years, he joined JW Marriott Hotel Juhu, Mumbai in 2003 with the Recreation Areas in his charge. Yadav comes with an extensive progressive experience, having started right from the entry level in the wellness industry and reaching its top position.



HARPREET KAUR BAKSHI has been designated as Assistant Manager – Marketing Communications and PR at Eros Hotel, New Delhi, Nehru Place. She holds a post graduate diploma in Travel and Tourism Management and has an experience of 6 years in the hospitality industry. At Eros Hotel, she will be responsible for conceptualising and executing marketing strategies, managing advertising, promotions and media relations.

Drottningholm Palace



The Woodland Cemetery



Birka



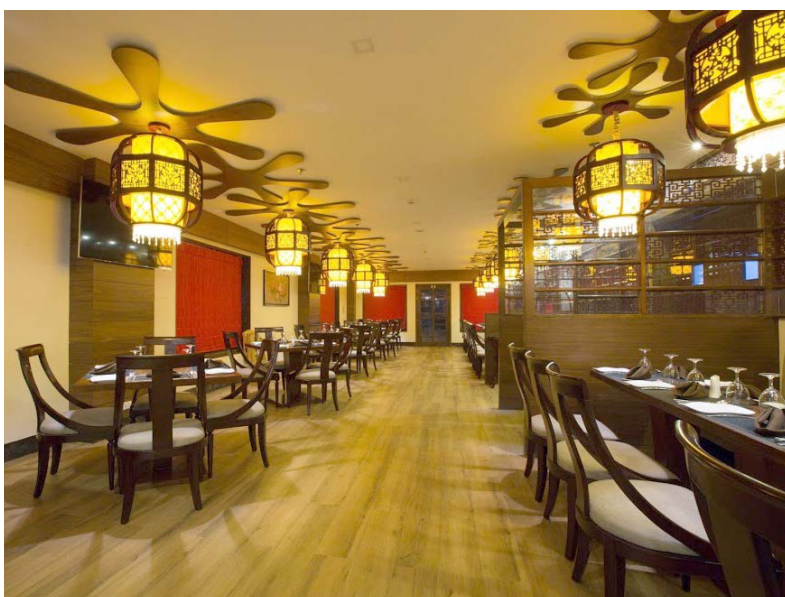
THREE WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN STOCKHOLM

The Stockholm region is home to three of Sweden's UNESCO World Heritage Sites – spots judged as invaluable places that belong to all of humanity. Visiting Birka, Drottningholm or the Woodland Cemetery is like travelling back in time to three different defining periods in Sweden's history. All three of Stockholm's World Heritage Sites are excellent choices for an excursion out of the ordinary.

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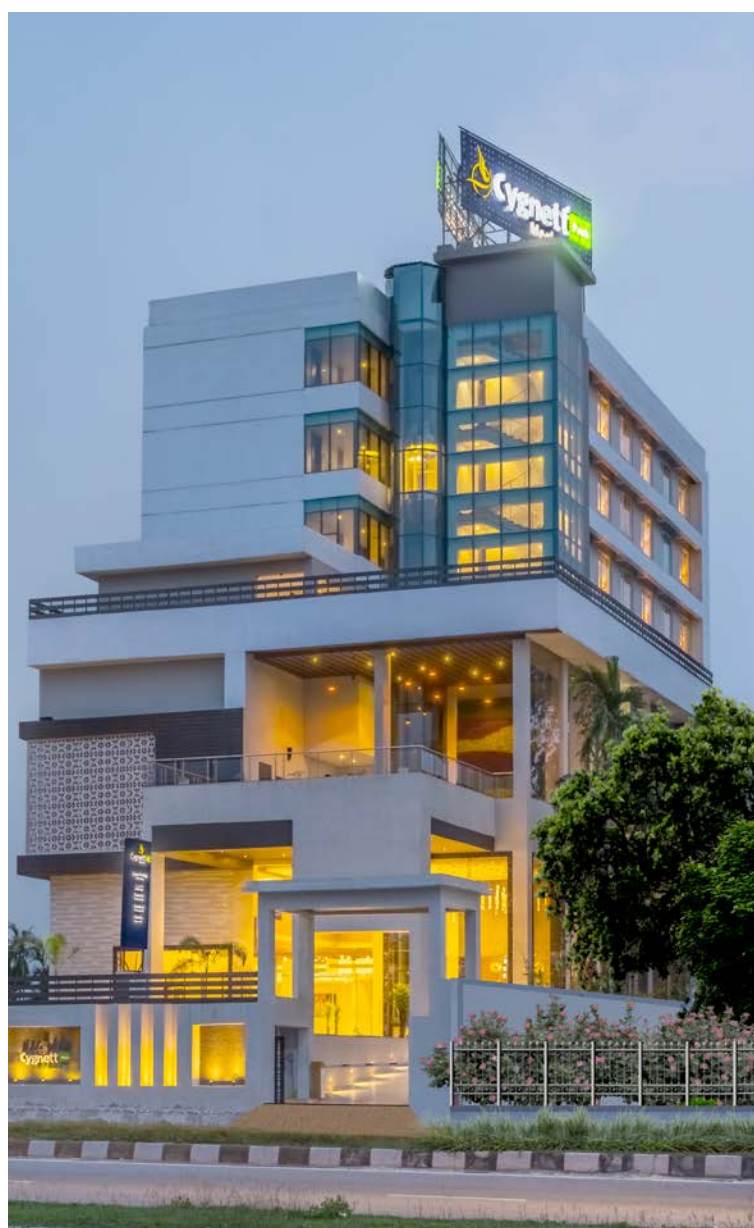
UNPARALLELED COMFORT

In conversation with Sarbendra Sarkar,
Managing Director and Founder at Cygnett
Hotels and Resorts

TT BUREAU

What are the USPs of the Cygnett brand?

All hotels are your go-to places for rest and relaxation in the best accommodation available. Today, people don't just book a room because it's decent or clean. People who travel for business or pleasure are looking for the best value for their money. Cygnett provides stellar spaces with its own unique 'Cygnetture Experience.' Whether it's a travelling executive who needs a basic clean space to stay in, along with delectable meals and a gym, or a corporate businessman who wishes to host a conference in an





“Cygnett has world-class experienced team members, with 100 years of experience in global market spaces, to maintain the standard of services.”

upscale hotel with a business centre, audio-video conferencing facilities* - A family needing a reliable, budget space just for a vacation or organizing a wedding with support for the zillion small things needed at a lifetime event - Relocating students & executives needing economical, safely serviced spaces for an extended duration*.

For each event, they need a partner that goes beyond only providing a room on rent. They need a partner to help make their event successful and memorable, right from making it super easy to plan their event...through their stay and much after they've checked out.

Cygnett provides the widest range of Upscale, midscale, economy and budget space solutions for all your hospitality needs. Whether it is a space for a serious offsite office meeting, a fun family wedding or a relaxed vacation, Cygnett not only has just the right space for you at prices that are great on your pocket but also serves this with its gourmet Cygnetture experience* delivered through its proven best in class processes, people and a next-gen Technology engine - *All of which make Cygnett the only name you need to know for all your hospitality needs and events!*

How are you using technology as an effective platform to promote your brand and business?

Technology is a core enabler in our quest to deliver the ultimate Cygnetture experience. Cygnett's next-gen technology engine,

'CygnettCX', comprises of several inter meshed components that include the information rich and user friendly website, the Central Reservations System(CRS), an Online Reputation Management(ORM) and a service monitoring module all supported by artificial intelligence and data analytics to understand and deliver a personalized hospitality experience to every single customer.

Right from the time you start to plan an event, to your check in...through your stay and much after your check out, **CygnettCX** makes it super easy to explore, book a space, check-in, request for amenities, order food, all the while remembering your favourite choices to continue to delight and surprise you again! After all, isn't this what hospitality is all about?

Cygnett has strategic agreements with OTA (Online Travel Agents) to increase visibility and availability of hotels, making them accessible to a wider range of customer and markets.

We support all our hotels with the cutting edge technology for upgrading the digital marketing strategy with its well knit online network prompting the same to be global guests.

Tell us about your future plans of expansion?

Various strategic partnerships with travel management companies have led Cygnett to connect with more than 640,000 travel agents globally and expanding its reach in the traditional sector. Cygnett, within the fiscal year 2016/17 has successfully added 1000+ rooms in the market space.

Cygnett has opened 8 Hotels in last 2 years, receiving outstanding user and industry appreciation and currently actively working towards opening 103+ Hotels across 75 cities across India & South Asia within the next 5 years. The company is looking forward to adding 5000+ rooms by 2020.

* Conditions Apply





TEMPLATE FOR EXCELLENCE

In conversation with Rajesh Mohan, General Manager, Aamby Valley City & Hotel Sahara Star

TT BUREAU

What is your hotel's corporate positioning?

For any hotel to maintain its position as a leader, it must analyse its current and future operating environment, economic and market conditions, consumer and travel trends, as well as its ever evolving competitive landscape. We have a strategic annual operating and marketing plan which addresses our tactical initiatives, based on future financial health and profitability.

Hotel Sahara Star increased its ARR and occupancy by its market capture to 10 per cent more than its fair share as per STR Global London Report. This has been possible due to flexible

RevPAR based rate offers; high average room rate, frequent individual travellers; revenue management and optimisation strategies with cross training and multi-skilling among business development, electronic sales, field sales, marketing communications, public relations, reservations and tele sales teams and central reservation system; customised promotions depending on the season; high-end service, hospitable staff, expat hostesses, world-class amenities, along with live performances and entertainment on a daily basis.

Sahara Star personifies the spirit of progressive India and promises to be an unmatched experience where hospitality meets entertainment. It is not a typical match box hotel and is based on the fusion of hospitality and entertainment.

What are the USPs of the hotel?

The USPs of the hotel include:

- The hotel boasts 55,000sq.ft of tropical lagoon featuring Sahara Sapphire, Mumbai's largest pillarless, multi-purpose event hall
- The hotel features the world's only private dining room, set amidst India's largest marine aquarium, which is also home to a vast range of marine life
- The hotel houses the world's first hemisphere compound curved custom designed all-glass panoramic elevators
- To make your MICE activities world class, the hotel provides one of the most technologically advanced boardroom in the city – Aces, seating up to 77 delegates, equipped with all





the latest conference facilities, including a four-screen Barco projection system

- For first-class entertainment, on offer is Mumbai's first private Preview Theatre Cinetheque, within the 5-star deluxe hotel, equipped with state-of-the-art audio and video facilities
- For music lovers, the hotel provides live performances and entertainment, such as mermaid shows, laser and fire shows, live band, magicians, in line with the vision of fusion of hospitality and entertainment
- All rooms are equipped with RGBW-based programmable and addressable LED lighting with built-in DMX decoders, providing an amazing colour wash and spectacular customised effects to the glass facade



“Made by man's greatest strength... Imagination, Sahara Star is yet another masterpiece from Sahara India Pariwar.”

ultra-modern technology.

Uniquely distinctive, Sahara Star has 348 beautifully crafted, elegantly-styled guest rooms, including 25 most luxuriously appointed suites and nine exotic Food and Beverage destinations built around four thematic

concepts. Here, the culture, mystique and hospitality of India blend with modern facilities and services to create the finest business-cum-leisure hotel of the country. Juvana Spa is Sahara

What are the facilities that your hotel offers to luxury and leisure travellers?

We are currently strategising our plans for creating a multi-dimensional lifestyle complex, transforming the professional, social and personal lifestyles of our guests. Sahara Star, the flagship hotel of Sahara India Pariwar, is one of India's most



Star's distinctive spa and wellness centre, spread across 1,900sq.ft of total area. Its rejuvenating space and experienced staff knead stress out of your body, taking you closer to your inner self. The hotel also houses a plush swimming pool with a built-in Jacuzzi to a well-equipped fitness centre to further enrich your rejuvenation experience.

Where vision transforms into reality, Sahara Star promises to enthrall the world with its striking architecture, a majestic landmark in the cityscape. Sahara Star truly embodies a 'first-of-its-kind' in the hospitality industry.

CORPORATE JET-SETTER

CAPTAIN RAJESH SHARMA
MANAGING DIRECTOR
INTEGRATED FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
& ASSET SERVICES
CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD

Most memorable trip to any destination?

The most memorable trip we had was a trip to London. The city gives you the best cosmopolitan experience and has a lot to offer, be it the history, culture and night life, and one of the best culinary experiences in the world. A trip to London helps you understand and appreciate how the city was pretty much the capital city of the world for hundreds of years up until the Second World War.



You dream of going to?

Masai Mara – We are a family of wildlife enthusiasts and Masai Mara definitely offers the best wild life experience in the world. The annual great migration is a sight to behold and it's the best place to see the Big Five from close quarters in their natural habitat.

Favourite airline and why?

Emirates – The airline has great connectivity to the rest of the world from Dubai and the onboard service is unmatched.

A place you plan to visit again?

United States of America. It's a huge country and one needs many trips to fully experience it. So far, both our trips to the US were to the Northeastern states of the country. We now plan to explore the West coast and the Southern states on our next trip.



A family vacation that stands out?

It is by far the best vacation we took to North America. Stayed with close relatives, both in Canada and the United States. The kids had their cousins for company and really let their hair down

throughout the trip. We hired a car and drove all the way from Montreal to New York. It was quite an experience.

Your best holiday with friends?

It was a trip to Goa a few years back, with a large group of family friends. It was one of the most relaxed trips, the hotel had a private beach and the weather was excellent. Although I spent most of the vacation lazing by the pool or at the beach, there were lots of games, activities and fun to keep everyone entertained and busy.

Great food you enjoyed and where?

Every evening in London was a culinary experience to behold. It's difficult to pick one as there were quite a few outstanding experiences throughout the trip. However, we all particularly loved the Indian cuisine at Chutney Mary.

What to watch out for while travelling?

My advice to all travellers is to travel light and book in advance. That way your travelling would be convenient and you would save a bundle.

As a travel buyer, what's your philosophy?

Plan well in advance and choose destinations that offer something for everyone in the family.



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WILDLIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA

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SHAMWARI GAME RESERVE

Touted as one of the most successful private conservation initiatives in Southern Africa, Shamwari Game Reserve is coupled with responsible tourism and the most luxurious means of experiencing your African safari adventure. Situated in the Eastern Cape, South Africa, Shamwari Game Reserve is the malaria-free, safari holiday you've been searching for. Accommodating family, friends or business associates, the facilities, coupled with their spectacular location and passion for the environment, make this an unforgettable destination.

Shamwari Game Reserve offers several lodges, each individually decorated and designed to deliver their own unique experiences. The game lodges not only offer a utopian setting, but also the opportunity to interact with nature in its purest form. Whether you're travelling for a holiday, conference or for an educational visit, you can bask in the wonder of nature, in luxury and style.

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Steeped in legend and history, the iconic Kruger National Park in South Africa is waiting for you to explore its vast landscapes and spectacular African wildlife. Plan your Kruger Park safari trip, which range from exclusive private safaris to affordable group safaris.

The complete selection of private safari lodges in Kruger Park, ranges from absolutely extravagant to romantically intimate to classic family retreats, and something to suit every budget. Take a journey of exploration to find Africa's Big Five: Elephant, Lion, Rhino, Leopard and Buffalo, and discover unique wildlife on a real safari in Africa.



SABI SANDS GAME RESERVE

One of the most famous private game reserves of all, Sabi Sands Game Reserve, adjacent to South Africa's flagship Kruger National Park, offers a safari experience found nowhere else in

the world. Game viewing possibilities are simply unparalleled, including the much sought after 'Big 5'. The Sabi Sands is in particular well known for its amazing leopard sightings. You can be certain to return home with some absolutely stunning pictures and memories.

Add a fantastic range of luxury lodges suiting all tastes and an African dream safari is born. Fortunately, Sabi Sands offers a perfect bed to everyone, and for every budget. As there is quite a number of lodges to choose from in the Sabi Sands Game Reserve you can be sure to enjoy an exclusive experience guaranteeing an absolutely unforgettable time in the African bush.





THE COMPLETE EXPERIENCE

In conversation with Pooja Patti, General Manager, Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Goa Candolim



TT BUREAU

Tell us about the USPs of your hotel?

Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Goa Candolim, is located in North Goa, which is a happening and sought after destination by today's travellers. The hotel has 122 keys and exhibits Indo-Portuguese architecture, which exudes an old-world charm, yet is contemporary with its state-of-art services and modern facilities. The hotel boasts an immaculately maintained swimming pool, which is one of the



largest in the locality. All guest rooms come complete with top-class facilities and enjoy attached balconies that overlook the courtyard and its manicured gardens and the swimming pool.

What are the facilities offered by your hotel for Corporate Travellers?

Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Goa Candolim, offers several options to corporate travellers to host a wide range of

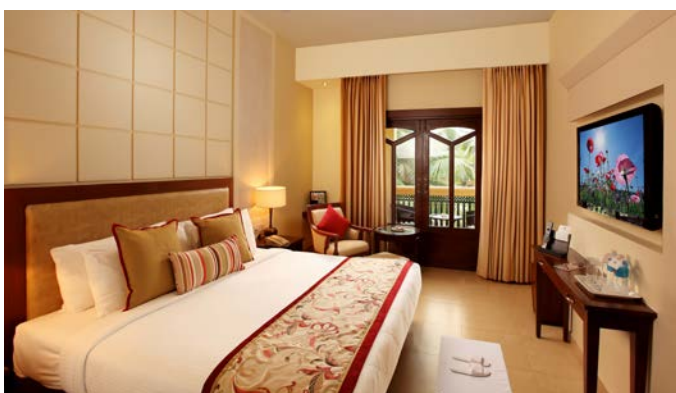
For wedding and MICE activities, on offer is a 2,800sq.ft of the pillarless Girasol Ballroom space.

events. From an intimate business meeting for eight inside a plush executive boardroom to an extravagant celebration for up to 250 guests in their 2,800sq.ft pillarless Girasol

Ballroom, the hotel caters to all. And, to top it all, services include high speed gratis Internet Wi-Fi access throughout the hotel and state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment for a world-class event.

What are your F&B offerings?

While guests staying with us can boast round-the-clock room service, our various in-house restaurants will leave food connoisseurs on a high. The hotel boasts an all-day international cuisine coffee shop, Mosaic, that offers Buffet Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, as well as À La Carte. The hotel also has a Lobby Bar and Pool Bar and Grill which are operational from 11 in the morning to 11 at night.



LUXURY GOLFING

For a country with the oldest golf course outside the British Isles, India doesn't exactly spoil golfers for choice. But what it lacks in numbers, it makes up in quality

RAHUL SINGHA

From the iconic Delhi Golf Club in the Capital to the remarkable Royal Springs Golf Club overlooking the Dal Lake in Srinagar, the country beckons wandering golfers with a fascinating cross-section of layouts, ranging from ultra-modern parklands to downright one-of-a-kind oddities.

ROYAL SPRINGS GOLF COURSE, SRINAGAR

Experience the splendour and beauty of the Royal Springs Golf Course, with one of their specially designed Royal Springs vacation packages. Whether it's a romance or sports getaway, Royal Springs leave no stone unturned to allow guests to make the most out of it and enjoy the beauty of Kashmir amidst golf shots. Royal Spring Golf Course is dedicated to providing its members with superlative experience with outstanding amenities and unmatched service. It is easily one of the most stunning and breathtaking golf courses in India with the Zabarwan Hills in the background and the Dal Lake around the corner. The course is spread over 300 acres of rolling hills, native deciduous forest, lakes, wilderness with the occasional marsh.

KENSVILLE GOLF LIVING, AHMEDABAD

Surrounded by places of historical, cultural and environmental significance, such as Lothal, the seat of one of the most ancient civilizations; the home of the Tarnetar Mela, an event attended by folks from all over; sanctuaries like Nalsarovar, Zainabad and Varavedar, Kensville's 18-hole PGA-standard course is a verdant oasis just outside Gujarat's bustling commercial capital and is designed by golfing great Jeev Milkha Singh. Golfer Shiv Kapur trained Sachin Tendulkar at this course, and Kensville has hosted multiple European Challenge Tour events.

OXFORD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, PUNE

With facilities ranging from a picturesque golf course, a 42-bay world-class equipped golf academy, a dedicated sporting retail shop, tennis courts, squash courts and a wide range of racquet sports on offer, an infinity swimming pool, a variety of restaurants, chalets and tents to stay overnight, and open air venues for

banquet and entertainment events, Oxford Golf & Country Club provides a truly world-class country club experience.

The Club is just 22km from Pune airport and is bordered on three sides by the Sahyadri hills. The

18-hole horseshoe-shaped course is ideal for seasoned golfers. Several vantage point tee boxes provide you with great views of the silver sand bunkers as you drive your ball down the hills, and over 40 practice bays give it its world-class appeal.



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NEWPORT CONNECT | MICHEL HERBELIN

Celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, the Michel Herbelin French Watchmaking Studio turned resolutely towards the future, unveiling its first “Made in France” connected watch model at Baselworld–NewportConnect. Whether past, present or future, each Ventura iteration is loyal to the collection’s heritage and Hamilton’s American Spirit and contributes to keeping the iconic timepiece renowned for many decades to come. Oris breathes new life into its partnership with Australia’s Royal Flying Doctor Service with its Royal Flying Doctor Service Limited Edition II, which is based on Oris’s legendary Big Crown collection.



VENTURA 2017 | HAMILTON



KHAKI NAVY FROGMAN | HAMILTON



ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE LIMITED EDITION II | ORIS

REDEFINING CULINARY RENAISSANCE

With old recipes, come old memories and a novel culinary experience

TT BUREAU

It's time to explore the exotic and gourmet flavours of old and lost recipes of India. In a first, Goldfinch Hotel Mumbai, sets out to restore old and forgotten authentic regional cuisines which have been lost through time and were rooted in tradition. Arvind Shenoy, General Manager, Goldfinch Hotel Mumbai, has decided to bring back these lost cuisines to the spotlight by re-inventing them for travellers, foodies and connoisseurs of today, at Goldfinch Hotel Mumbai. "When quick food became the



norm and traditional food began to fade away from

“It's time to sail all the way to your childhood and relive the culinary memory at Goldfinch Hotel Mumbai.”

the collective memory, Goldfinch Hotel Mumbai decided to bring back the nostalgic taste to your palate. Gastronomically, dining at Goldfinch is not just eating, but an experience of time travel to the lost era,” added Shenoy.

Many hotels are upbeat about recreating the lost recipes of India – resurrecting mouth-watering delicacies that are laced with history and part of the daily food habits that were followed decades ago. Goldfinch Hotel Mumbai recreates a lost cuisine fest which is rich in texture, well balanced in diverse flavours, and found only in the memories of grande

dames. Signature dishes on the menu include Khotto – idli batter steamed in jackfruit leaves, which finds its heritage in the Gaud Sarawat Brahmin cuisine from Mangalore; Pathrode – also known as ‘Pataude’ in some regions of India – is made with Colocasia leaves (arbi ke patte). Pataude is a delicacy which is steam cooked, then fried in very little oil.

Biscuit roti, which is a puffed poori that is flavourful and delicious and is very popular in Udupi, Mangalore. Shenoy explains, “Bringing back all regional cuisines are an unending celebration of indigenous ingredients cooked in a variety of ways to make you nostalgic. It's time to sail all the way to your childhood and relive the culinary memory at Goldfinch Hotel Mumbai, with dishes such as Papoli, Sungta Umman (Prawns in spicy gravy), Sungta Hing Udda (Prawns laced with Asfoetida flavours) and Amboli dosa, which tastes best with Agri-style chicken



Biscuit Roti



Pathrode

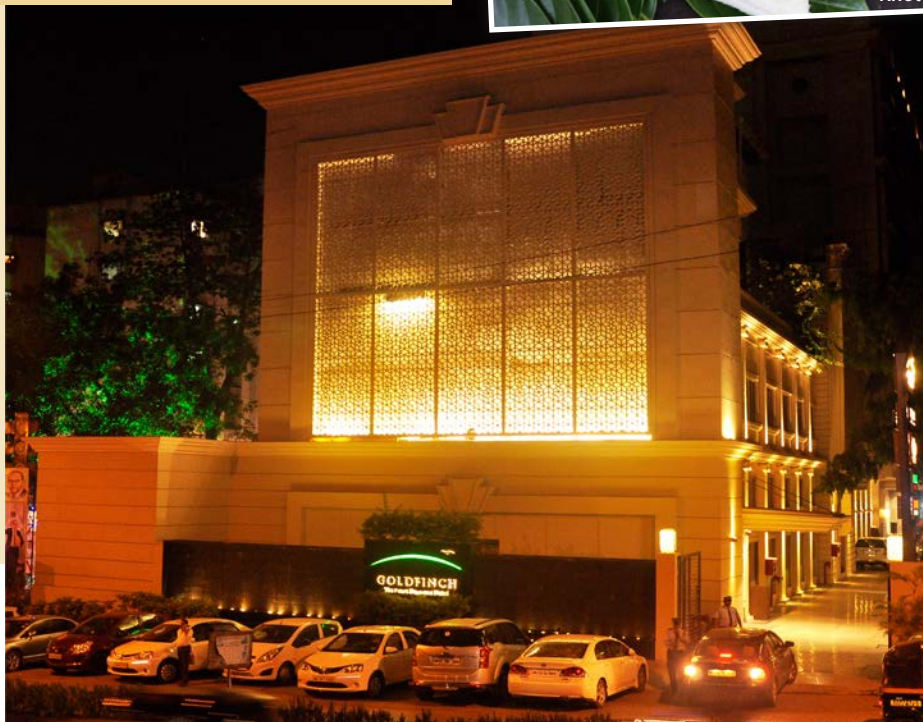
curry or Malvani fish curry.”

Adding more richness to the stay, the hotel serves an extensive buffet spread of Indian-cuisine delights available to all in-house and walk-in guests, featuring elaborate delicacies from various regions of India, with a great fusion of beverages and warm hospitality, extensively enhancing the gourmet. It's the ideal place for business and leisure travellers, with its easy accessibility to the city. There are many other spellbinding reasons to visit Goldfinch Hotel Mumbai.

From a memorable date-night at the poolside rooftop banquet to an extensive breakfast buffet, pampering yourself with a relaxing and rejuvenating spa therapy or satiating your hunger at midnight with a variety of lip-smacking dishes – the Goldfinch Hotel Mumbai has everything to make your stay a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



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INSPIRING EXPERIENCES

In conversation with Santanu Guha Roy, General Manager, Radisson Blu Hotel Ranchi

TT BUREAU

What are the USPs of the hotel?

We are the only 5-star hotel in Bihar and Jharkhand where all the guestrooms are treated to a poolside view. We have a concept of 'Experience Meetings' for all discerning global travellers. And, our service of 'Something Blu' wedding concept differentiates our hotel from the rest of the hotels that cater to weddings and related events. We believe in the 'Inspired by You and Staged by Us' philosophy for our meetings and events. Last but not the least, our very own Club Carlson Guest Loyalty Programme, helps guests enjoy the benefits of being associated with our brand globally.



"We believe in the 'Inspired by You and Staged by Us' philosophy for our meetings and events."

What is the corporate position of the property? What is your corporate outreach programme for 2017?

Radisson Blu Hotel Ranchi is a Business Class hotel. We have a strong database of more than 500 corporates across the city and many more contracted globally. We have a separate unit sales team for room sales and banquet sales as well. Our Global Sales offices help us reach out and establish strong relationships with other corporates who act as consultants for other projects in the

city, but do not have an office set up in Ranchi. Recently, we had organised a corporate networking dinner meet at the hotel, on April 22, 2017, wherein we invited all the leading business partners across the city to help us strengthen our future business relationships and take it to new heights.

What are the facilities and services that your hotel offers for MICE activities?

We have a pillarless banquet hall with a pre-function area of 6,500sq.ft, which can accommodate up to 500 guests in theatre style with a grand stage set up. To support the accommodation we have 115 rooms in the hotel, spread across three different room categories, namely, Superior, Business Class and Deluxe Suite; 24 hours in-room dining services; complimentary high-

speed Internet access; 'Grab & Run' breakfast concept; 'Experience Meetings' concept to help corporates gain the maximum output of their

employees; state-of-art fitness centre, swimming pool, spa and other facilities, which can help our business travellers rejuvenate during their stay at our hotel.



LUXURY INSTATED

Impeccable location, state-of-the-art facilities alongside a gourmet experience like none other, The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul, offers a complete experience of high-end hospitality

TT BUREAU

With an impressive show of the historic Ottoman Empire and distinguished by a generous sweep of space, The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul, overlooking the Bosphorous Strait, interprets opulence and culture like none other. The epitome of luxury, splendour and discretion, the hotel provides the ultimate luxury of engaging in a new experience or simply giving in to complete relaxation. Guests can make themselves at home in one of 243 well-appointed rooms that include 23 suites and 57 Ritz-Carlton Club Level rooms. Nowhere is luxury compromised, ensuring that business and leisure travellers lack nothing in terms of avant garde facilities, which include over 25,866sq.ft of event space, The Ritz Carlton Spa and a state-of-the-art Fitness Centre.

In mood for breakfast? The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul, provides breakfast foods that are selected from all over Turkey, which enjoys a rich breakfast culture, turning breakfast into unforgettable moments. With its flaky pastries, eggy breads, cheeses from various regions, tasty omelettes, honey, clotted cream and patties with minced meat, spinach, potato and cheese, Sunday breakfast is a gastronomical experience at The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul. While sipping your tea, coffee or freshly-squeezed fruit juice, you can enjoy delightful moments and a historical Istanbul view.





Be it a casual lunch with friends, family or colleagues; enjoy a wide selection of fresh mezze, or an extensive delicious dinner, with a large variety of succulent grills served at Bleu Lounge & Grill, which features a Mediterranean-inspired menu, and an innovative range of cocktails. As night falls, stars, dazzling city lights and the glow of the floodlit Bosphorus Bridge illuminate the view, creating an unforgettable ambience.

During the summer months, guests at The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul, can experience specifically designed cooling and calming treatments at the only open-air spa in Istanbul, overlooking the Bosphorus, and enjoy complimentary offerings like a selection of summer fruits, flavoured ice cubes and frozen fruit shots.

Enjoy exceptional dining experiences at Atelier Real Food – the open kitchen entices with its French Rotisserie, all dishes use fresh local seasonal ingredients, culinary excellence is celebrated by delicious ‘farm-to-table’ flavours and a back-to-basics tradition inspires the unique dishes of the chefs’ ‘atelier’. Of course, the art of simplicity can be extraordinarily complex to achieve. Knowing world cuisine well, Executive Chef Selami Güleriyüz’s success comes from his mastery in the Anatolian kitchen. Güleriyüz’s biggest goal is to make Turkish cuisine among the best in the world. To reach this goal, he travels to all four corners of Anatolia for special flavour discoveries.

At The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul, he introduces traditional tastes borrowed from the locals with a modern interpretation, but without losing the original flavour.

Handmade breads are served on hot “Sile” stones brought from Turkey’s Anatolian region and are a perfect accompaniment to the restaurant’s artisanal organic olive oil.

Looking for a personal dining adventure, the restaurant enjoys a private chef’s table for those seeking dining exclusivity and a showcase cellar with 150 local and international wines. The lobby lounge, ‘Atelier Lounge,’ is a specially designed place to meet, eat and drink, offering afternoon tea, along with breathtaking Bosphorus views.

During the winter period, The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul invites guests to re-live precious memories with its “Mom’s Breakfast” concept every Sunday. On offer are a great variety of different flavours that take guests back to beautiful childhood memories while enjoying a special breakfast at the hotel, with its warm homemade breads, Turkish pancakes, crisp flaky pastries, fried dough snacks as well as jams and marmalades made with local flavours.

From high-end luxury facilities during your stay to state-of-the-art infrastructure for a smooth MICE event or simply to satiate that erratic gourmet palate of yours, The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul, is simply the place to be.



URBAN DELIGHT

Love and romance are on the cards this monsoon and what better way to celebrate it than with Waterstones Hotel

TT BUREAU

The perfect destination for the quintessential business traveller, Waterstones Hotel is a charming boutique hotel that is quietly tucked away in an oasis-like serenity, despite being in the heart of the bustling city of Mumbai. Strategically located in close proximity to the International and Domestic airports of Mumbai, Waterstones Hotel is a place of encounters that dares to be different. If the hotel's nomenclature seems a tad curious,

it certainly has worked hard at living up to its name.

All of the 99 nature-inspired rooms and suites are spacious, individualistic and stylish, providing a truly unique experience to discerning travellers who desire something beyond the mundane. For instance, a cool minimalism is the hallmark of the Glacier Room, rustic warmth defines the mountain theme and bright energy is the essence of the Fire Room. Steeped in five acres of nature, waterfalls and lush lawns, the hotel is an escape to the way life should be: easy, tranquil and yet contemporary.

Loaded with top-class facilities, the rooms come with a personalised touch and include an uniquely designed workstation, multi-line telephone with voicemail, tea and coffee station, in-room safe, flat-screen LCD, refrigerated private bar, extensive pillow menu, DVD player with a selection of movies and a Bluetooth music docking station. Guests staying for long can opt for the hotel's round-the-clock laundry and dry-cleaning services along with one hour complimentary ironing and shoeshine to keep you all groomed and ready to go. Each of the bathrooms comes equipped with a luxurious blend of modern amenities, hair dryer, rain shower, bathrobe and slippers. Guests can also avail their 24-hour in-room dining and concierge services at the touch of a button.

The hotel also houses one of Mumbai's most well-known oriental restaurant, All Stir Fry. It was the first Oriental street-style kitchen restaurant that introduced the concept of all-you-can-eat Wok buffet to





Mumbai. And that is not all – stop over at On The Rocks for a sip of smooth cocktails, fine wines and world-class whiskies for a perfect start to a great evening.

Whether you are on business or leisure, the wellness and recreational centre at Waterstones Hotel is sure to leave you coming back for more. This unique retreat combines the pleasures of a luxury spa, an Olympic-size infinity pool, an out-door Jacuzzi, specialty restaurants and bars with modern facilities such as a business centre, conference rooms, banquet hall, day-care centre, state-of-the-art gym, tennis and squash courts, library, cards room, billiards room, movie lounge, music lounge, games room and much more, all in one magnificent space.

This monsoon, guests can profess their love in the most special way and escape to the luxurious comforts of Waterstones Hotel's Romance Package. Step into any of the uniquely themed rooms and begin your afternoon by savouring the chocolate and fruit platter kept right there to welcome you. Relax and unwind by the pool and reap the benefit of exercise by working

out at the hotel's state-of-the-art gym or tennis courts. Take the journey ahead with Bliss – The Spa that leads you to a world of pure relaxation and rejuvenation for the body and mind. A sumptuous lunch is sure to be followed at White Barn – a pool-facing restaurant for a tantalising blend of traditional favourites and healthy, well balanced meals.

So, plan your monsoon getaways with your significant other at this vibrant hotel, which provides a much needed reprieve from a stressful life.



MUMBAI DIARIES

Famously referred to as the City of Dreams or the City that Never Sleeps, Mumbai is a potpourri of heritage, entertainment, and the balmy sea

TT BUREAU

HERITAGE WALKS

Lose yourself in Mumbai's historic colonial landmarks and architectural marvels around Fort and Colaba, the city's famous precincts. Make sure not to miss the Gateway of India, Taj Mahal Hotel, Wellington Fountain, The Prince of Wales Museum, Elphinstone College, Bombay High Court, Crawford Market and more.

BOLLYWOOD

The birthplace of Bollywood is today the world's largest film making entity. With 1,000 films being produced annually, Bollywood has taken Mumbai to global standards and has created heroes of normal men. Take a behind-the-scenes tour, visit an old heritage cinema, peek inside a film star's makeup room and pose for souvenir snapshots with some of today's Bollywood stars.



HAJI ALI DARGAH

Floating like a sacred mirage off the coast, this Indo-Islamic shrine located on an offshore inlet, is a striking sight. Built in the 19th century, it contains the tomb of the Muslim saint Pir Haji Ali Shah Bukhari. Legend has it that Haji Ali died while on a pilgrimage to Mecca and his casket miraculously floated back to this spot.



CHUG ALONG

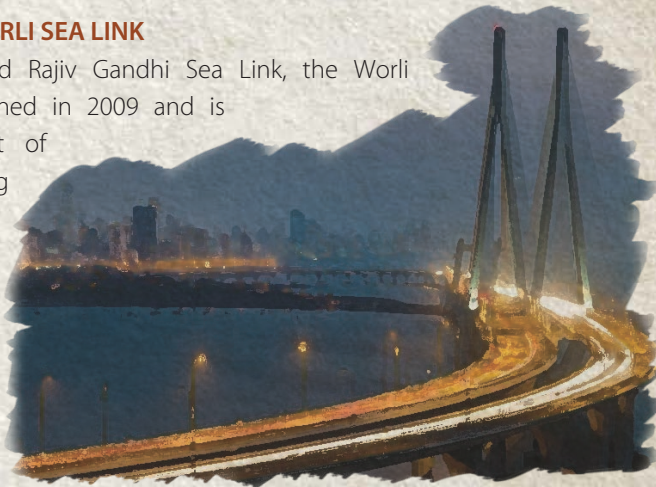
Quaint old buildings, dilapidated bungalows, isolated railway quarters line the stations from Churchgate, all the way to Andheri on the Western Line – enjoy this and much more on the notoriously crowded local trains and the BEST double-decker buses that the city of Mumbai is famous for. Travel during the non-peak hours so to avoid maximum rush.

HIGH ON FOOD

From finger licking pav bhaji to the must-have, vada pav, Mumbai is famous for its authentic street food, which is widely available on the streets of Mumbai. You can also shift from mainstream and try the Bombay Duck or the Shark Fry recipes close to the heart of Mumbai.

BANDRA-WORLI SEA LINK

Officially called Rajiv Gandhi Sea Link, the Worli Sea Link opened in 2009 and is nothing short of an engineering marvel. The tall, imposing ropes holding the bridge high in the open Arabian Sea reduces driving time between Bandra and Worli and provides a spectacular view of the city.



QUEEN'S NECKLACE – MARINE DRIVE

A 3km long boulevard in South Mumbai, it is a 'C'-shaped six-lane concrete road that links Nariman Point to Babulnath, and is situated at the foot of Malabar Hill. The promenade is lined with palm trees, and at the northern end of Marine Drive is Chowpatty Beach. Large crowds of people come to this place to stride along the beautiful walkway and to view the stunning sight of the setting sun at dusk.



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B2G
Meetings



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WHERE BUSINESS IS PLEASURE

Whether you are on business or leisure, Radisson Jass Shimla is your home away from home

TT BUREAU

Radisson Jass Shimla, situated in the Himalayan Mountains, offers scenic vistas that are sure to inspire and impress. The hotel features top-class services and modern amenities that include their on-site restaurant Café Valley Vue, gratis high-speed Internet access, car rental services, foreign currency exchange, Pool table, travel desk, Business Centre, Medical service on call, Sansha Spa and a multi-tiered outdoor pool that overlooks the great Himalayas. Moreover, the hotel is located in close proximity to popular area attractions like the Gaiety Heritage Cultural Complex, Jakhu Temple and Christ Church. And, it is only 26km from the Shimla Airport.

Luxury and comfort are the overriding qualities of the hotel's guest rooms, which include Business Class Rooms, Deluxe Rooms, Deluxe Suites and Executive Suites. Designed especially for corporate travellers, the rooms offer access to upgraded amenities like complimentary breakfast, free drink vouchers and round-the-clock room service. Ideal for extended stays, facilities include daily newspaper, fruit basket upon arrival, hair dryer, in-room safe, outdoor swimming pool, steam room, tea- and coffee-maker, packaged drinking water, upgraded bathroom



amenities and a complimentary DVD player and movies upon request among others.

Experience diverse cuisines that include Indian, Asian and Continental at Café Valley Vue, the in-house restaurant at Radisson Jass Shimla. The restaurant features Indian specialties like Tandoori Murg and Dal Makhani, Asian dishes like Vegetable Fried Rice and Chicken Thukpa, and Continental favourites like Roasted Spring Chicken and Shepherd's Pie. Whether you're dining on a meal inspired by India, Nepal or France, your entrée will feature fresh, high-quality ingredients. Guests can also opt to visit the bar on the open deck to enjoy expertly crafted cocktails and mountain views. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Café Valley Vue features both indoor and garden dining. The relaxed atmosphere and friendly, attentive service makes the restaurant an ideal setting for a casual meeting with colleagues or dinner with friends.

For hassle-free events and MICE activities, the hotel boasts 3,200sq.ft of conferencing space, complete with the latest state-of-the-art facilities. Good Wood Hall, the main meeting space, accommodates up to 200 guests and features soft lighting and artistic wood panelling. Guests can take advantage of modern





audio-visual equipment, gratis Internet access and an LCD projector for successful meetings and social gatherings in the foothills of the Himalayas. If you prefer a more traditional approach to brainstorming, the hotel offers flip charts, a white board and basic stationery. Throughout your meeting you can opt for services from the hotel's on-site catering or enjoy refreshments like mineral water, tea, coffee, fruit and cookies.

Rejuvenate, relax and replenish body and soul at Sansha Spa or simply refresh yourself after a day of travel with a swim in the hotel's multi-tiered outdoor pool overlooking the Himalayas. Guests can experience firsthand the traditional Indian healing art of



"I never dreamt about success. I worked for it."

- Vikas Kapoor
VP Operations
BDK Groups

Ayurveda or opt for a Western-style massage or a soothing treatment from Bali, Indonesia or Japan. Therapies include the use of salts from the Dead Sea. Built on multiple levels and surrounded by greenery, the elegant outdoor swimming pool at Radisson Jass Shimla offers awe-inspiring views of the mountains. Guests can also opt for steam rooms with separate facilities for men and women.

Staying at Radisson Jass Shimla now has more benefits, as guests enjoy more points, more partners and more places with Club CarlsonSM — the global hotel rewards programme from the Carlson Rezidor

Hotel Group. Club Carlson offers exceptional hotel experiences, enhanced services and the ability to earn and redeem rewards remarkably fast at over 1,000 hotels worldwide.



SUMMER AT THE SPA

Beat the heat and rejuvenate with spa treatments from some of the best hotels in India

RAHUL SINGHA

The scorching summer heat takes its toll on most of us, the working man, the student, or the woman out to shop. The heat in all its vigour makes us weak, in mind, body and soul. It is at this time that we require relaxation and rejuvenation, when we most crave some pampering. But, there is a way out, a way to rejuvenate yourself. Head for a spa to beat the heat. Spa treatments this summer season will chase away the listless and lacklustre feeling. Here are some of the best spas from across the nation.

ITC MUGHAL AGRA KAYA KALP – THE ROYAL SPA

This luxurious hotel, that covers an area of over 35 acres in Agra, has a magnificent spa for all discerning guests. The Sanskrit word, 'Kaya Kalp' means rejuvenation of the body, mind and soul. The spa is ITC Hotel's highly acclaimed spa brand and it captures the spiritual legacy of the nation. Combined with the opulence of the Mughal era, the spa is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for those trying to cope with the summer heat.

At Kaya Kalp, guests can experience exotic body

treatments, relaxing massages and ancient Ayurvedic rituals that will uplift the body, mind and soul. The spa experience at the Kaya Kalp – The Royal Spa is one that is deeply rooted in traditional Indian wellness and helps to completely regenerate the senses. The Spa especially offers major rituals such as, Exotic Pomegranate Spa Journey and Passage to India Spa Journey, the de-stressing therapeutic Hot Stone Massage; Tension Reliever Massage and traditional Gemstones Massage, that utilise gemstones along with natural aromatic Indian blends.

ANANDA IN THE HIMALAYAS ANANDA SPA

A destination spa, Ananda in the Himalayas is located at the foothills of the Himalayas and is close to Haridwar and Rishikesh. This beautiful place is surrounded by sal forests, overlooking the mighty Ganges, making it one of the most preferred destinations for rejuvenating the mind, body and soul. The Ananda experience combines Ayurveda, Yoga and Vedanta.



Ananda Spa covers an area of 24,000sq.ft and offers over 80 body and beauty treatments. The spa experience creates unbridled harmony of the physical and mental being. Ananda Spa focusses on the traditional Indian sciences of Yoga and Ayurveda and works to produce a

suitable result from the amalgamation of modern technology and age-old therapies. The experiences that guests go through involve, de-stressing, detoxification, cleansing, deep relaxation, anti-ageing, weight and inch loss, and a wholesome guidance on diet and exercise. Facilities also include twenty-four treatment rooms that specialise in Ayurveda, Oriental and European systems. Guests also have the opportunity to enjoy a temperature controlled outdoor lap pool and a state-of-the-art 16-station life-cycle gym.

RADISSON BLU PLAZA DELHI R THE SPA

Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi offers a relaxation and rejuvenation of the stressed body, mind and soul. The in-house R The Spa is a complex spanning 20,000sq.ft and is the finest, boasting a mix of Asian traditions and European therapies. R The Spa also features aqua beds, Vichy showers and Hamam tables. There is also a fitness centre and a beauty salon.

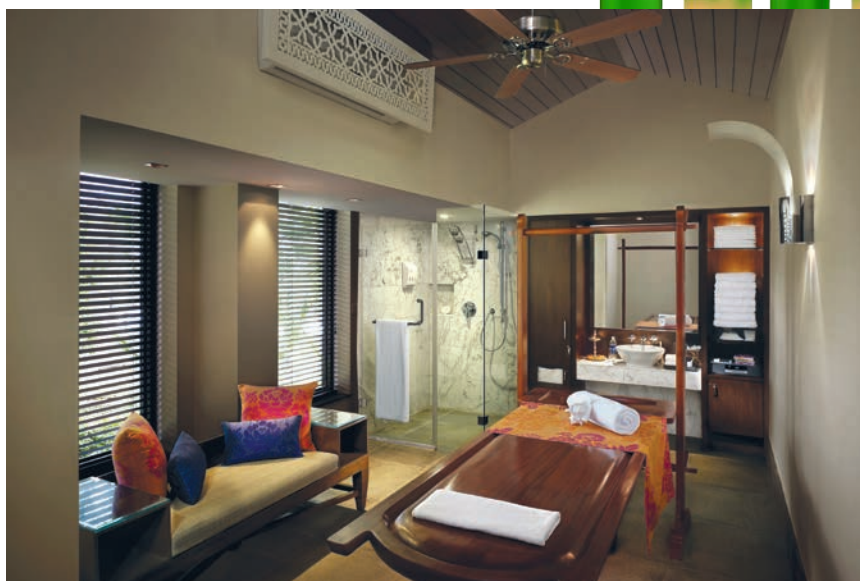
The Spa includes various packages for guests, which include the International Executive annual package; the Soul Renewal annual package; Inner Balance annual package; Essentia annual package; Moksha – 6 months package; Mummy's Me Time – 6 months package; Spa Teen – 6 months package, and quarterly packages like Monsoon Mist and Winter Rejuve. There is also Bride Package and Groom Package, called, Happy Ever After. There are many other packages with different prices and time ranges.



THE LEELA KOVALAM SPA & SALON

The beautiful Leela Kovalam seems twice as charming with its Kerala Ayurveda and Spa, which occupies a space of 8000sq.ft right on the top of a cliff. The spa focusses mainly on Ayurveda treatments as it is rooted in the culture of the state. The highly trained doctors and therapists work to give a unique experience to the hotel's guests. The world-class amenities used here are unmatched by any other due to their uniqueness in style.

There are various types of treatments available here, you have to choose in accordance to your requirement. The Ayurvedic requirements include Abhyangasnana; Abhyangasnana Synchronised Massage; Head, Neck, Shoulder and Back Massage, Chavutti Thirummu, Kalari Massage, Udvarthanam. The eye therapies include Netrasekam; Netratharpanam, head, back therapies and body baths; Pathrapodalaswedam or Elakkizhi; Shirodhara; Shirodhara with Abhyangasnana; ThakraDhara; Pizhichil; KsheeraDhara; Navarakkizhi; Kateevasthi; Urovasthi; and Lepam. There are three relaxation programmes, which are The Ayurveda Destress Programme, Ayurveda Destress and Detox Programme and Ultimate Ayurveda Relaxation.



GLAMOUR AT CANNES

Cannes as a destination gets its oomph factor from the various events it holds and we are highlighting just one of them

TT BUREAU

The city of Cannes, quietly tucked away in the French Riviera, is perhaps most well known for hosting the annual Cannes Film Festival (Festival de Cannes). Every year, the city welcomes a galaxy of stars that come to celebrate cinema at an international level. Founded in 1946, the invitation-only festival recently celebrated its 70th anniversary at the Palace of Festivals and Conferences (Palais des Festivals et des Congrès).

SONAM KAPOOR opted for an embellished couture by Elie Saab.

DEEPIKA PADUKONE was spotted wearing a green Brandon Maxwell gown.

AISHWARYA RAI BACHCHAN wore a couture gown by Michael Cinco.



AVIATION





PRIME MINISTER FLAGS OFF THE FIRST UDAN FLIGHT UNDER RCS ON SHIMLA – DELHI SECTOR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the maiden UDAN - Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik flight under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS). Already touted to be a revolution in the aviation sector, the first flight took off from Jubbarhatti Airport, Shimla, to New Delhi. On this occasion, the Prime Minister also flagged off flights on Kadapa - Hyderabad and Nanded - Hyderabad sectors under the Scheme through video link. The flag-off ceremony was held in the august presence of Acharya Devvrat, Governor, Himachal Pradesh, Virbhadra Singh, Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh, P Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, JP Nadda, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Jayant Sinha, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation, and other dignitaries. **tt**

APPOINTMENT

RAY GAMMELL has been appointed as interim Group CEO at Etihad Aviation Group. Consistent with the company's leadership transition plan, Gammell will assume full management responsibilities from today. Gammell is Etihad Aviation Group's current Chief People & Performance Officer and has been a member of the Executive Leadership since joining the business in 2009, where he has led the creation of a performance culture across the group.



Halima Aden (in red) is presented with Runway to Runway Gold membership by Amina Taher, Etihad Airways Head of Corporate Communications and Patrick Pierce, Etihad Airways Vice President, Marketing Partnerships.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS LAUNCHES 'RUNWAY TO RUNWAY'

Etihad Airways hosted a special reception at the exclusive Rosewood Abu Dhabi to mark the UAE launch of 'Runway to Runway', the airline's unique rewards programme specially designed to support the fashion community's international travel requirements. Celebrated Somali-American model, Halima Aden, flew in from the US as the airline's special guest for the evening.

The intimate gathering also included personalities from the fashion and lifestyle media, and regional social influencers. All guests were awarded top tier Gold Status founding membership with 'Runway to Runway' and a complimentary spa treatment at Sense, A Rosewood Spa®. **tt**



TURKISH AIRLINES INTRODUCES SPECIALLY DESIGNED HEADPHONES

As part of the excellent in-flight entertainment services, Turkish Airlines now offers the state-of-the-art Philips headphones in its Business Class. Permanently aiming to make its passengers' flights into an unequalled experience, Turkish Airlines offers special headphones in the Business Class of international flights, except intercontinental ones. These new high-end headphones, specially designed for long flight hours, will enable passengers to experience a more comfortable journey along with the award-winning in-flight entertainment systems of the carrier. Turkish Airlines continues to improve its in-flight offerings, as it strives to provide the world's best passenger experience. **tt**

FLY NON-STOP FROM DELHI TO STOCKHOLM

Air India announced non-stop flight services between Delhi and Stockholm, starting from August 15, 2017. The services will be operated thrice a week – Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays – with each flight roughly having an eight-hour duration.

Making the announcement, Ashwani Lohani, Chairman & Managing Director of Air India, said, "As part of Air India's international route network expansion plans, we are happy to announce the Delhi-Stockholm direct flight from August 15, 2017. The flight will be operated thrice a week on Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft."

"This comes at a very positive time in our relations and will continue to strengthen our partnership for the future," said Ann Linde, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Sweden, who is currently on a two-day visit to India.

"For us, India is a market with great potential for Swedish Tourism. During the last five years more and more Indians chose Sweden as their holiday destination. We look forward to a further growth of the tourism from India to Sweden," said Kristina Ösund, interim CEO at Visit Sweden. **tt**



AIR CANADA ANNOUNCES SPECIAL PROMOTIONAL FARES FOR MUMBAI-TORONTO-MUMBAI FLIGHTS

Air Canada has announced special promotional fares for their new Mumbai – Toronto-Mumbai service, starting on July 2, 2017. These fares are valid for travel between July and December 2017 and are available for sale through Travel Agents, OTAs and Global Distribution Systems. On this new route the airline would also be deploying the new Boeing 787 – Dreamliner with a three cabin configuration of International Business Class, Premium Economy and Economy. The four-times-a-week service has convenient timings with an arrival into Mumbai from Toronto at 2130 hours and departure from Mumbai to Toronto at 23:30 hours. **tt**



LEO LANDS IN BUENOS AIRES

Leo, the innovative baggage robot developed by global air transport IT provider SITA, has made Argentina the latest stop on its world tour, showcasing the next generation of baggage handling technology. Leo is a fully autonomous and self-propelling robot which looks after passengers' baggage. It's an example of how robotics could be used by airlines and airports around the world to improve baggage handling.

Ricardo Lehmacher, VP Airports, Aerolíneas Argentinas, said: "We're always interested in how SITA develops new technologies to improve the passenger experience."

Elbson Quadros, SITA Vice President, Latin America, said: "Robotics, along with biometric identification and artificial intelligence, is changing the way airports will be designed in the future, making travel easier every step of the way and improving the passenger experience." **tt**



LUFTHANSA PROVIDES CABIN STAFF WITH IPADS

A gentle push on the home button and the digital world opens up to the user. A finger swipes the surface and navigates to a yellow app. With the “Lufthansa crewFlight” apps, the seating plan is quickly opened, providing the cabin crew with plenty of information on the guests of their next flight.

As of this week, Lufthansa has been providing its 20,000 flight attendants with iPad Minis. The so-called cabin mobile device (CMD) will be successively issued to the entire cabin crew over the next few weeks. This is a major – and above all – a visible step in the year of digitisation at Lufthansa. The so-called Electronic Flight Bag has already been in operation in the cockpit since the beginning of 2015 and is used by 4,300 pilots for flight planning and operations. At the same time, cabin crew managers also received a tablet, and this is now to be extended to include all cabin crew as a result of the positive experience.

The CMD will allow cabin crew members to access all the data they need to work on board, to access important service manuals and service schedules, and easily view any changes in plans. The CMD heralds a new way of “paperless” working and simplifies existing processes so that staff have more time for customers. Moreover, it significantly improves communication with the personnel on board. **tt**



MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES AND TURKISH AIRLINES ENTER CODE-SHARE AGREEMENT

Middle East

Airlines (ME) and Turkish Airlines (TK) signed a codeshare agreement covering routes between Turkey and Lebanon, and expanding



travel opportunities for passengers of both airlines. The signing ceremony took place at MEA Head Quarters in Beirut. Middle East Airlines Chairman and Director General, Mohamad A. El-Hout and Turkish Airlines' Deputy Chairman and CEO, Bilal Ekşi, signed the agreement in the presence of senior officials from both sides.

MEA Chairman, Mohamad A. El-Hout expressed the importance of this agreement, as being a step in stimulating the economic cooperation between Lebanon and Turkey, and will enable both airlines to further accommodate the needs of their loyal passengers.

Said Ekşi, “We are pleased to sign this codeshare agreement with Middle East Airlines and aim to improve our partnership to maximise the travel opportunities offered to our passengers through our flight networks.” **tt**

VISTARA INTRODUCES SELF-SERVICE CHECK-IN AT KIOSKS ACROSS INDIA

In its commitment to offering a seamless travel experience to its customers, Vistara launched self-service kiosk check-in at Delhi's Terminal 3, Indira Gandhi International Airport and Mumbai's Terminal 2, Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport. Vistara is set to launch the same service across 17 other airports that it operates from by the end of June 2017.

The self-service kiosk check-in is also available for Singapore Airlines and SilkAir customers who are flying on Vistara-operated aircraft under code-share tickets. Vistara will soon also extend the functionality of the service to offer greater convenience of opting for ancillary products/services to its customers at the self-service check-in kiosks. **tt**



SRILANKAN AIRLINES ADDS THREE MORE INDIAN CITIES TO ITS GLOBAL ROUTE MAP

SriLankan Airlines will be adding three southern Indian cities – Hyderabad, Coimbatore and Visakhapatnam – to its network from July this year. The new connections are expected to bridge the demand of both Indians and Sri Lankans who have been looking for seamless connections across the region for work and leisure purposes in Sri Lanka, India and onward destinations.

Commenting on the developments, SriLankan Airlines Chief Commercial Officer, Siva Ramachandran, stated, “India has been a vital part of our strategic expansion where we will continue to explore potential to consolidate our presence. The new routes also reinforce our commitment to strengthen the deep commercial and bilateral ties between India and Sri Lanka.” **tt**

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EXPLORER



ESMERISING EGHALAYA

From caving, swimming, safaris to explorations, Meghalaya offers something new with every visit

TT BUREAU

Located in Northeastern India is the picturesque state of Meghalaya. Bordered by Assam in the North and Bangladesh in the South, Meghalaya is bliss on earth. Meghalaya literally means – ‘The Abode of Clouds,’ and as the name suggests, it is the wettest place on earth with an average annual rainfall of 1,150cm. With almost one-third of the state covered with lush forests, Meghalaya is truly a natural paradise. Meghalaya’s ethnic communities add their rich cultural heritage to this verdant wonderland. All this makes for an unforgettable experience.

Situated at an altitude of 1,520m above sea level, Shillong, the state capital, is the perfect tourist destination. This picturesque capital is a sight to behold. With its waterfalls, sparkling lakes, pristine brooks, pine groves and gardens, the breathtaking natural beauty of the place enchants visitors who come here from all over the world. Far from the madding crowd, Shillong offers the world-weary traveller a quiet, rejuvenating retreat.

Nestled among forested hills, Shillong experiences a favourable climate throughout the year. There are numerous attractions here that enthrall visitors. Apart from the numerous waterfalls of spectacular beauty, there are many peaks that offer a panoramic view of the surroundings. These include the 1,961m high Shillong Peak. Located 5km from the city, it is the highest point in the state and offers a breathtaking view of the countryside.

At the heart of Shillong is the beautiful Lady Hydari Park. Another attraction is Ward’s Lake, a picturesque man-made lake named after the then Chief Commissioner of Assam. A popular spot for both locals and tourists, Ward’s Lake has short garden walks and also offers boating facilities. Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians is another must visit. Shillong Golf Course is one of the oldest and the best natural golf course in the world. The site where the golf course is located provides a scenic view of the surroundings.

There are some spectacular falls around Shillong. Located within the Shillong Cantonment, on the outskirts of the city, lies a dazzling waterfall which looks like an eagle with wings spread, hence the name Spread





Eagle Falls. Other falls to watch out for are, Sweet Falls, Beadon Falls and Elephant Falls, among several others.

Home to various wildlife including herds of wild elephants and Hoolock Gibbons, rare varieties of birds, pheasants and orchids, the Nokrek National Park and Biosphere Reserve located in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya and 45km from Tura is a nature lover's paradise.

Mawsynram is a small village in the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya state, 56km from Shillong. Reportedly the wettest place on earth, Mawsynram receives an average annual rainfall of 11,872mm. However, as there has been no meteorological department office in the area and for all practical and statistical purposes, Cherrapunjee has been recorded as the wettest place in the world.

Previously known as Cherrapunjee, Sohra is located on a plateau on the southern slopes of the state. Dotted with numerous waterfalls cascading over deep gorges, Sohra is a natural wonderland. Set against the backdrop of a stunning landscape, it is an enchanting corner of the Northeast that is waiting to be discovered.

Located in the East Khasi Hills District, about 90km from Shillong, Mawlynnong has earned the distinction of being the cleanest village in Asia. This picturesque village offers many interesting sights, such as the living root bridge and another strange natural phenomenon of a boulder balancing on another rock. The village, which has cent per cent literacy, is also taking the lead in spreading the message of conservation and protection. A dustbin made out of bamboo is found all along the village and everyone makes it a point that dirt and waste are not thrown everywhere. Mawlynnong's fame draws an endless stream of guests from India and abroad. The village

is also an artists' delight and would appeal to creative writers and poets.

The abundance of nature at Meghalaya satiates even those with the biggest appetite for quest and adventure. The most popular activities include: jungle safari, angling, bird watching, nature walk, trekking, adventure sports, etc. Enjoying caving in the baffling caves of Syndai and Siju is a curious and exciting sport. Besides many of the rivers, Umiam Water Sports Complex (at Khasi hills) is a paradise for water sport lovers.

GETTING THERE

BY AIR

There is a small airport at Umroi, about 35km from Shillong. At present, Air India operates with ATR42 type of aircraft on this route. Buses / taxis are available from Shillong to Umroi and back. Another convenient airport, the Gopinath Bordoloi Airport in Guwahati (128km from Shillong) is connected to the rest of India with regular flights. Helicopter services are also available from Guwahati to Shillong and back daily, except on Sunday.



BY RAIL

There are no rail lines in Meghalaya. The nearest railway station is Guwahati. It is 104km from Shillong and very well connected with all major cities of India.



BY ROAD

National Highway 40, an all-weather road, connects Shillong with Guwahati. State Transport Corporation and private transport operators have services to various places in Meghalaya and to neighbouring states.



LUXE 'I DO' VENUES

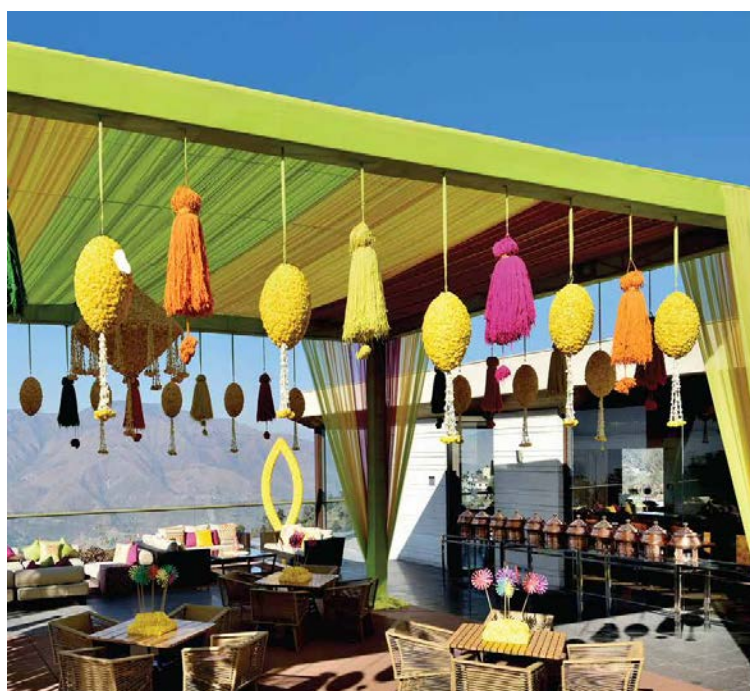
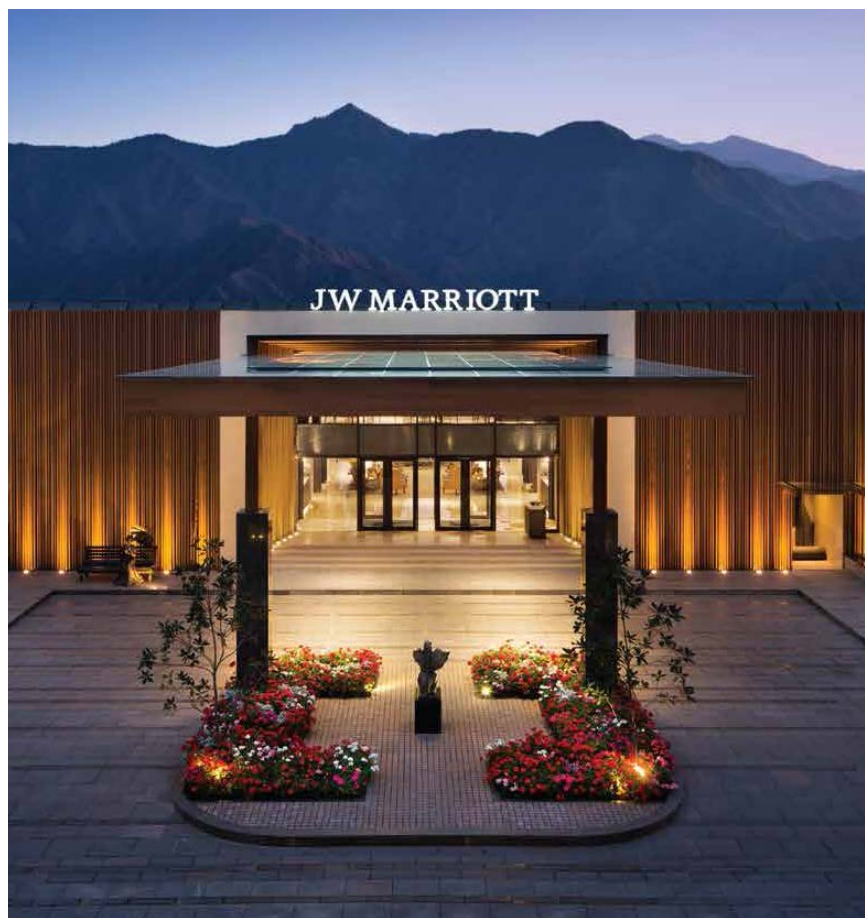
We bring you the choicest of hotels for a dream wedding celebration

RAHUL SINGHA

It's the oldest cliché in the world – 'Marriages are Made in Heaven,' but for the sites of passage your go-to venue is perforce planet Earth and specifically, a destination of choice. Marriage is a momentous affair that deserves the very best. Today, luxury hotels host weddings of any style for brides and grooms who desire upscale weddings. Today's Traveller brings you the choicest of luxury hotel destinations that are loaded with cutting-edge amenities and packages that are sure to make your wedding affair the talk of the town.

JW MARRIOTT MUSSOORIE WALNUT GROVE RESORT AND SPA, UTTARAKHAND

Destination Weddings are trending, so what better way to celebrate it than making your wedding an unforgettable destination experience at JW Marriott Mussoorie Walnut Grove Resort and Spa. Amidst the Gharwal Himalayas, celebrate this most special day of your life. The hotel offers breathtaking venues, customised gourmet options, bespoke



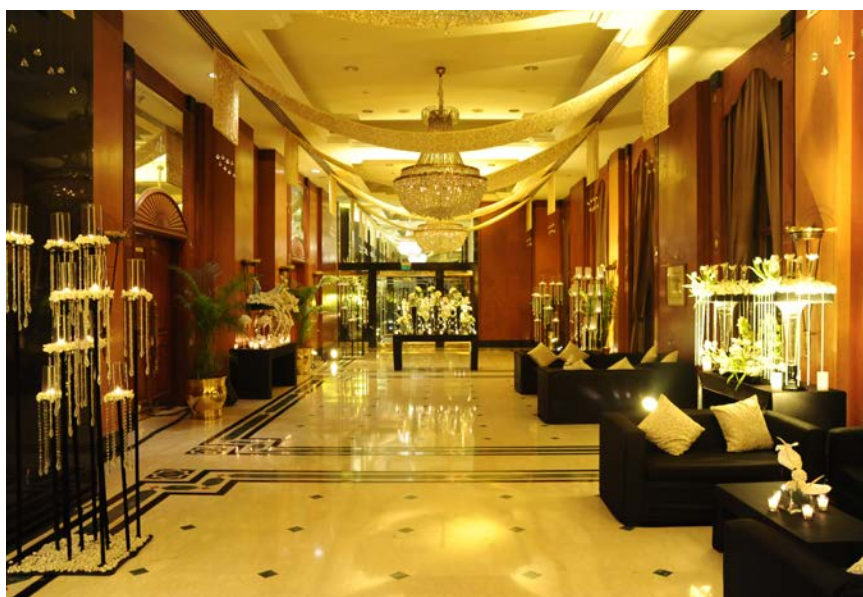
amenities with a skilled events planning team that come together to make your wedding an affair to remember. Whether you want a large scale extravaganza or simply an intimate private affair, on offer are 4,198sq.ft of total event space, including the sophisticated Grand Orchard Ballroom that can host up to 350 guests. Move past their indoor-outdoor venue space to be enthralled with the hotel's unique dining experiences and the calm of the renowned Cedar Spa by L'Occitane to make memories of a lifetime.

EROS HOTEL, NEW DELHI

With a varied choice of versatile venues, convenient location and state-of-the-art facilities, the hotel is a one-stop destination for your dream wedding. Wrapped in 5-Star deluxe luxury services, Eros Hotel is your ideal wedding destination that caters to all your needs as it offers numerous choices in terms of venue, spa and bridal packages, décor themes, wedding consultants and much more. Guests can also choose from a wide range of fine dining and wine menus that are on offer to satiate every palate. Spread across 25,000sq.ft, Eros Hotel's banqueting space can accommodate up to 2,000 guests. Right from the flower arrangements to the finer details, everything at Eros Hotel is taken care of. Exhausted from the big celebrations, the bride and the groom can choose to relax and unwind in the luxury of the beautifully restyled bridal suites which come loaded with amenities for a perfect stay.

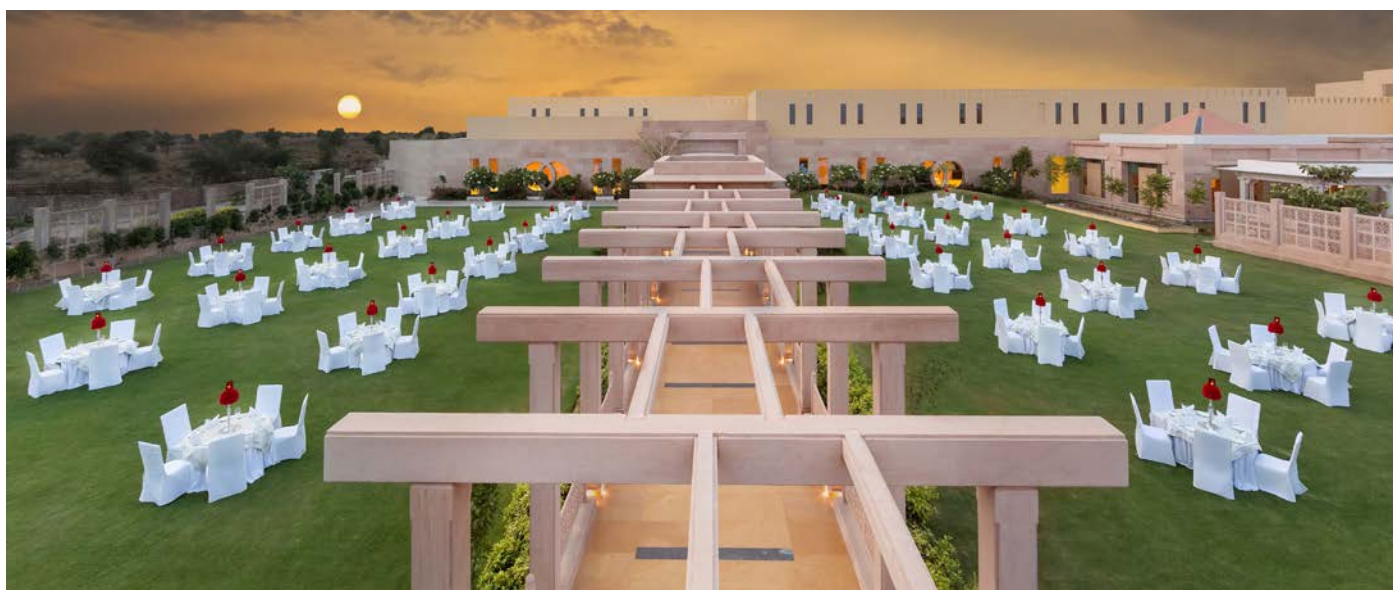
WELCOMHOTEL JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN

Set on the edge of the Thar Desert, WelcomHotel Jodhpur is set against sombre and arid landscapes and exudes old



Rajasthani charm. As a tribute to the city of Jodhpur, replete with history, culture and monuments that harks back to the royal era of the princely state, the hotel endeavours to reflect this grandeur through food, music, colour and an ethnic mélange of unique experiences. To imbibe this and much more, celebrate a

wedding that is defined by unparalleled efficiency and warmth at WelcomHotel Jodhpur. Celebrate your wedding in style and grandeur mixed with the right amount of opulence at Akbar Hall, Jodha Hall or Mandore Bagh, which provide a total banqueting space of 31,600sq.ft. If this isn't impressive enough, WelcomHotel Heritage offers multiple gourmet dining options, ranging from European, Regional Indian and Asian cuisines to specialty Rajasthani cuisines. Before the grand ceremony, simply relax at the WelcomWellness – The Spa.



THE LEELA MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA

The Leela Mumbai is famous for intimately planning every event with great care and attention. Whether you are planning a lavish wedding or a small intimate affair, The Leela Mumbai has a choice of venues you can select from, including the Grand Ballroom, which is nearly 12,000sq.ft and can cater to a traditional Indian wedding with 1,000 guests. When it comes to delectable dining, you can trust Chefs at The Leela Mumbai to create an incredible menu for an unforgettable wedding experience. From customised menus, finest floral arrangements, special rates on rooms, honeymoon suite, spa and salon services to transport arrangements for you and your guests. The Leela Mumbai is the place to be for the perfect wedding celebration.



PARK HYATT GOA RESORT AND SPA, GOA

If celebrating indoors is too confining for you, Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa has the right remedy as they offer luxury beach weddings for the outdoor savvy. Picture a romantic sunset



ceremony overlooking Arossim Beach, followed by a magnificent dinner dance reception in the Salcete Ballroom – all this and much more are on offer at the hotel premises. For a signatory wedding extravagance indulge in superb cuisine, brilliant floral arrangements, and fabulous live entertainment to the occasional gentle reminder to stop and savour the moment – the expert planners at the wedding hotel in Goa will help you realise the wedding day you've always imagined. Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa offers flexible indoor and outdoor function spaces, including their regal Salcete – a 4,030-sq-ft wood-panelled ballroom that can accommodate 500 guests. From inspired wedding themes to delectable food and beverage options, complete with pre and post wedding packages for all, Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa is your ideal wedding destination.





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THE FOOD FIESTA

Step into a delectable world of cuisines in these extraordinary Indian cities

TT BUREAU

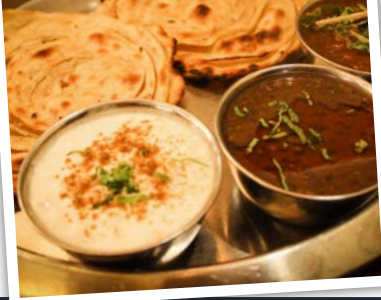
A diverse nation is a treasure trove of cultures and traditions, which also includes a vast spread of diverse cuisines. Whether it is the fiery fare of Northeastern India, or the sweet savouries of Bengal, whether you want a bite of authentic coastal food or love the idea of mountain cuisine, all downed with the delicious Mahua of tribal India to the delicious Goan feni, when talking about Indian food, you have to be referring to hundreds of cuisines.

KASHMIR, JAMMU & KASHMIR

They say Kashmir's scenic beauty makes it a heaven on earth for travellers; we also say it is 'Paradise Found' for food lovers. Kashmiris love mutton and there are close to thirty mutton recipes originating from the valley, the most popular being Rogan Josh. You also have Gushtaba – lamb meatballs in yoghurt curry; Tabak Maaz – lamb ribs with turmeric, cinnamon and saffron; Kashmiri Haakh – a traditional Kashmiri collard green preparation. For dessert, try Khubani ka Halwa, a delightful apricot pudding mixed with dried fruits. The high point of the Kashmiri food experience comes in the form of Wazwan, a multi-course meal with almost all dishes made of chicken and lamb – its preparation is considered an art.

Special Beverage – Kawah, the traditional tea
Oomph factor – Boat ride on Nagin Lake





Made to measure – Patiala Peg, pride of Punjab, basically an extra large peg of liquor
Oomph Factor – The Golden Temple

AMRITSAR, PUNJAB

The haven of Punjabi cuisine, it's all about heavy eating and living life king size. Punjab is also home to the delicious tandoori foods, be it chicken or paneer. In Amritsar, one can find the flavours of authentic Punjab, the Kasoori Methi (dried fenugreek leaves) and butter-laden delicacies. When in Amritsar, do try the authentic and very famous Butter Chicken – chicken in creamy gravy; the ultimate Sarson ka Saag and Makki ki Roti – a traditional dish where spinach and mustard meet corn bread or roti; Fish Tikka – an oven-cooked Amritsari delicacy; and Amritsari Lassi. Find your way to one of the many places that serve some tasty Amritsari Jalebi to end the food fest on a sweet note.



KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL

Once the capital of India, Kolkata was a cosmopolitan city with Jews, Armenians, Anglo-Indian settlers, paving way for some of the most sumptuous foods you can find in the country. Start your culinary journey by heading to Toretta Bazaar early in the morning. Home to the Chinese community, you will be in for a treat, which includes Chicken Momos, Pork Momos, Shu Mei, Sausages, Prawn Wafers, Tai Paos, Fried Dough Sticks, and Chicken Rolls. Move on to authentic Bengali dishes later in the day, with Kosha Mangsho – an aromatic Bengali mutton curry; Sorse Ilish – a preparation of "Ilish," (The King of Fishes) with mustard seeds and green chillies; the quintessentially Bengali Alu Posto – potato with poppy seeds, and while you are at it, try the various green veggies and roots and shoots, most of which are prepared with fish head or small fish. Do not miss out on Kathi Rolls and other street food, and, ofcourse Flury's, the legendary Kolkata tearoom.

Festiva Pancake – The pitha, a sweet snack connected with the harvest festivals

Oomph Factor – The iconic Howrah Bridge above the holy Ganges

LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH

Reminiscent of the Nawab culture, Lucknow is every foodie's delight. What you get in Lucknow in terms of food is better known as Awadhi cuisine and it would entirely be your loss if you do not try them all. The very first item in your list should be the famous and the delicious, Galouti Kebab; Lucknowi Biryani – the version of Biryani found this side of India comes straight out of the kitchens of the Nawabs; Kakori Kebabs – these amazing kebabs are made of minced mutton and are mixed with aromatic spices before being grilled, in order to get the beautiful colour. Kakori, a city on the outskirts of Lucknow, is where the Kakori Kebab originated. Check out Pasandey – mutton cooked till tender, in spices and gravy, along with cream and almonds. Complete your culinary journey at Lucknow with Shahi Tukda – a delicious bread pudding, and Malai Ki Gilori, which is an authentic sweet delight.



Sweet delight – The incredibly delicious dahi Jabeli
Oomph factor – The Mughal shrine, Bada Imambara





KOHIMA, NAGALAND

Home to over 15 indigenous tribes, the state of Nagaland is a potpourri of Naga cooking. In general, Nagas love their poultry and fish, however, their favourite meats are pork and beef. It is a common practice in the state to rear animals to be slaughtered at feasts, and keep a stock of smoked and salted meat to be used through the year. The meat is first smoked over a large kitchen fire at home, and then it is fermented underground for longevity. While talking about local food in Nagaland, you cannot ignore the extensive use of freshly available herbs into their cooking. Often, the cooking involves large chunks of meat with the most basic condiments. One of the most sought after traditional dishes of Nagaland is the pork smoked in their traditional way. The authentic smoked pork would be crisp on the outside and succulent from within. The dish can be tossed dry with other ingredients or prepared into a curry with local flavours and paired with steam rice.

Hottest spice - The Bhut Jolokia (raja mirchi) is considered to be one of the hottest chilies in the world.

Oomph Factor - Hornbill Festival (1-10 December) is Nagaland's biggest annual jamboree.



KANNUR, KERALA

The southern paradise of India has some of the most delicious foods you can ask for and it is not just idlis and dosas. Try the local style of eating appams with curries, especially non vegetarian ones. Then, there is the out-of-the-world Malabar Biryani; Fish

Mappas – a curry cooked in coconut milk, which is also eaten

with appams; Pomfret Moilee or any other fish moilee – cooked with curry leaves, tomatoes, mustard seeds and turmeric; Cheera Thoran – a fried dish of fresh vegetables, which is mostly eaten as a side dish. Kerala is also widely famous for its very spicy beef fry, a must-try for meat lovers.



Heady wine – Toddy, palm wine indigenous to Kerala
Oomph factor – The gorgeous Kerala backwaters





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DELHI

Date: Thursday,
16 November, 2017
Venue: The Ashok Hotel

MUMBAI

Date: Tuesday, 23 March, 2018
Venue: Sapphire Ballroom,
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24 HOURS IN CAPE TOWN

With its marvellous architecture, beaches and buildings, Cape Town, in South Africa, offers tremendous scope for a fun-filled 24 hours

TT BUREAU

LOUIS BOTHA

Unveiled in August 1946, the statue of Louis Botha, the first Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, on horseback, takes centre stage on the lawn of the Union Buildings. Sculpted by Coert Steynberg, the statue is made of bronze.



BO-KAAP

Best accessed by foot, Bo-Kaap is one of Cape Town's most distinct neighbourhoods. Formerly known as the Malay Quarter, Bo-Kaap's origin dates back to the 1760s, and is renowned for housing the first established Muslim mosque in South Africa, the Auwal Mosque. The place also houses the Bo-Kaap Museum, which will enlighten you with the real history of the area.

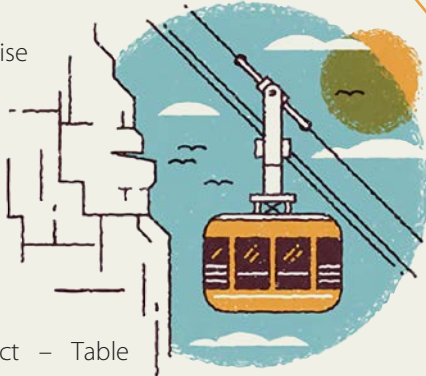
ST MARTINI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Funded by German immigrants in 1861, St Martini is the first German Lutheran Synod in South Africa. It was built when the Lutheran Church split and a new church, called St Martini the Evangelical Lutheran Church, was erected in Long Street, where it still stands today. The church went on to influence the architecture and building of other Lutheran churches in the Cape, like those in Bellville, Wynberg, Paarl, Philippi and Stellenbosch.



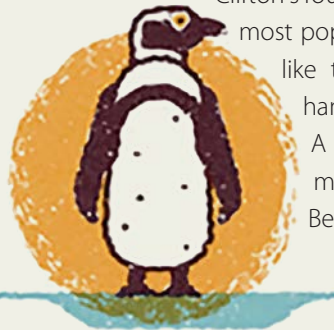
TABLE MOUNTAIN

Touted as a hiker's paradise with numerous trails, amazing views and plenty of interesting facts to learn, Table Mountain is one of South Africa's best known landmarks. And, an interesting fact – Table Mountain is probably one of the most photographed landmarks in South Africa, which is now one of the New7 Wonders of Nature. *Don't Miss:* The Table Mountain Aerial Cableway experience.



BEACHES IN CLIFTON

From the trendy shores of Clifton and Camps Bay to the warmer swimming waters of False Bay – if you love surf and sand, Cape Town has a beach that's just right for you. While the water might be chilly, Clifton's four beaches are among Cape Town's most popular, attracting a trendier set that like to sunbathe, play volleyball and hang out with friends. *Did You Know:* A colony of African penguins has made a home for itself at Boulders Beach in Simon's Town.



DASSIES

Widely distributed, this outsized fluffy guinea pigs you'll encounter at the top of Table Mountain are dassies or hyraxes (*Procavia capensis*), which, despite their appearance, aren't rodents at all, but the closest living relatives of elephants. Their name (pronounced like "dusty" without the "t") is the Afrikaans version of dasje, meaning "little badger", a name given to them by the first Dutch settlers.



What: Rath Yatra (Car Festival)

When: June 25, 2017

Where: Puri, Odisha

The famous Rath Yatra festival commences when the chariots of Lord Jagannath, accompanied by his elder brother Balabhadra and sister Devi Subhadra, are brought out on Puri's main street, known as Bada Danda. The chariots are then taken to the Shri Gundicha Temple to their aunt's house, where the deities enjoy a nine-day stay and are served with sweet pancakes. Also known as Chariot Festival or Car festival, this is one of the most awaited Hindu festivals of the state as well as the country. The three chariots that are the highlights of the entire Yatra, are pulled by strings.



What: 20th Anniversary Celebrations & Today's Traveller Awards 2017

When: 31 July, 2017

Where : Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi

Once again, it is time for India's most respected and premium corporate, travel and tourism, aviation and hospitality awards – the Today's Traveller Awards 2017 edition. The awards are presented by the Gill India Group, publisher of the 4-time PATA Gold Award winning magazine, Today's Traveller. The Today's Traveller Awards were incorporated in 2007, with the objective of recognising exceptional achievers who have inspired others in their respective industries.



What: Dree Festival

When: July 5, 2017

Where: Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

The Dree Festival of Arunachal Pradesh is an agricultural festival celebrated by the Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. The festival is marked by grand ritual and community feasts served with delicious rice/millet beer. Traditional songs and dances are also displayed as part of the Dree celebrations. Touted as one of the biggest festivals of the Apatani tribe, the festival is celebrated with zest, marked by sacrificial offerings and prayers. The one-day event is also an occasion for the women folk to brew wine and visit the homes of their relatives and present them with the wine as a symbol of love and affection.

What: International Mango Festival
When: July 9-10, 2017
Where: Dilli Haat

Largely popular with mango lovers, the two-day annual International Mango Festival of Delhi is a celebration of mangoes and other produce. The festival puts on display more than 500 varieties of mangoes that are brought from different states of India. First organised in 1987, the International Mango festival of Delhi is a common platform bringing together not only mango lovers but also sellers, gourmands, horticulturists and growers from all parts of the country.



What: Karsha Gustor Festival
When: July 21-22 July, 2017
Where: Karsha Monastery, Leh

The Karsha Gustor Festival is a celebration marking the victory of good over evil. Celebrated in one of the largest monasteries in the Zaskar region, the Karsha Monastery is home to 100 lamas. Celebrations at the festival include a Black Hat Dance and a masked dance (performed by the monks) on the same line as Chaam.



What: Champakkulam Boat Race
When: July 8, 2017
Where: Champakkulam, Kerala

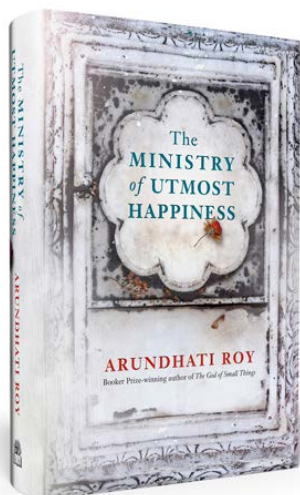
In Kerala, the season of boat races starts with the renowned Champakkulam Moolam Vallam Kali (Vallam Kali translates to boat race). The festival takes place at Champakkulam, a serene village in the district of Alappuzha. On the day of the race, people, both locals and tourists from far off places, flock the river banks of the River Pamba to enjoy the race. Among the various boats used, the snake boat with its fascinating design, catches the attention of all.

PICK OF THE MONTH



The latest collection of books, games, audio CDs and DVDs are here to keep you entertained for the month

BOOK: THE MINISTRY OF UTMOST HAPPINESS



A moving new novel-the first since the author, Arundhati Roy's Booker-Prize winning, internationally celebrated debut, *The God of Small Things*, went on to become a beloved best seller and enduring classic. *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* transports us across the sub-continent, on a journey of many years. It takes us deep into the lives of its gloriously rendered characters, each of them in search of a place of safety - in search of meaning, and of love. A braided narrative of astonishing force and originality, *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* is at once a love story and a provocation

– a novel as inventive as it is emotionally engaging.

Genre(s): Fiction

DVD: GET OUT

Now that Chris (Daniel Kaluuya) and his girlfriend, Rose (Allison Williams), have reached the meet-the-parents milestone of dating, she invites him for a weekend getaway upstate with Missy and Dean. At first, Chris reads the family's overly accommodating behaviour as nervous attempts to deal with their daughter's interracial relationship, but as the weekend progresses, a series of increasingly disturbing discoveries lead him to a truth that he never could have imagined.

Genre(s): Horror/ Mystery



MUSIC: COACHELLA – WOODSTOCK IN MY MIND



"Coachella – Woodstock In My Mind" is a song that alludes to Lana attending Coachella, remembering the freedom and excitement of the 1969 rock music festival Woodstock, but also realising the difficult situations the world is facing right now. Concerned about the future generations, Lana tries to give hope by standing and speaking about it. She acknowledges that her contribution might not

be the biggest, but it will spread and make a change. The song features a political background which Lana has shown a great interest in.

Genre(s): Alternative/ indie



GAME: STAR TREK: BRIDGE CREW

Star Trek™: Bridge Crew will immerse you in the Star trek universe, thanks to Virtual Reality. The game puts you and your friends in the heart of the U.S.S. Aegis. Your mission is to explore a largely uncharted sector of space known as The Trench, in hopes of locating a suitable new home world for the decimated Vulcan populace. The Klingon Empire is also active in the region, and their purpose is a threat to the Federation's plans.

Genre(s): Action/ Adventure

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