

News Magazine SUPPLEMENTS Spice

Check in to check out

Five new luxury addresses that are redefining travel.

 India Today Spice | Posted by Manpreet Kaur
September 28, 2017 | UPDATED 14:02 IST

A + A -



Poolside view

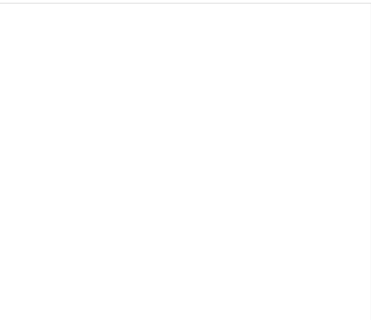
1) Le Meridien, Goa

By Chumki Bharadwaj

Five star luxury these days comes cosseted by glimpses of cookie-cutter assurances: cold-as-a-coffin cavernous lobbies, lavish art, extravagant show of flowers, smiling front office staff brandishing iPads; you get the drift. But when it comes to hospitality, the only two things that really inhabit memory, are service and food. Service, where needs are anticipated and wants furnished faster than a morning greeting and authentic food that is audacious yet flavoursome. Here's where the newest outpost of Le Meridien in Goa wins. Unlike the larger than life vibe of Goa that pervades even the outlay of its hotels, with languorous stretches, this is relatively compact. The lobby is split with a mezzanine level that peeks down, and hosts a coffee bar-Longitude 73o-during the day and moonlights as a 'sparkling' bar by night. The rest of the lobby is sequestered into alcoves of squashy sofas and comfy window seats to inspire a social hub.

Palate pleasures But it is at Latest Recipe, their signature all-day dining restaurant that you can spend all day. It opens out to an al fresco dining area overlooking the pool, and serves staggering food. They do offer familiar international flavours but it is the local Goan food that is delightful. For a sumptuous lunch, try the king fish peri peri or pomfret recheado (Goa's fiery mixed spice) or even the crumb fried calamari with ambot (local souring agent). The breakfast goes one step ahead with a dazzling buffet that reaches over and beyond experience and expectation, with a separate section for kids with ice cream, marshmallows, macarons, chocolate nibs, sprinkles, jujubes, muffins, puddings and a fresh juice bar. Despite the 360 profusion of goodies, we recommend the signature Goan breakfast. The Ros omelette that carries old Goa's delicate flavours, in an eggs Benedict-looking avatar, plates a poached egg, balanced on the local bread (poi) floating in a cashew-spiked, chicken curry. Sweeten the deal with a bebinca tartine-traditional Goan dessert with toasted almond flakes, crunchy pastry and tender coconut ice cream.

Jazz & Grills, boasts a live jazz band



LAUNCH GALLERY (11 IMAGES)

Star Wars Day: 402mn searches, no Oscar in 33 years. How much about Star Wars do you know?

Suggested Stories

Do you know how much Salman Khan was paid for Maine Pyar Kiya?

Honeypreet Insan says she doesn't want to talk about ex-husband Vishwas Gupta

Remember Dhoom actress Rimi Sen? This is what she is up to now

Mahima Chaudhry looks like THIS now? Recognise her if you can

by Taboola



Recommended

Own a 1 or 2 Bhk Home in The Heart of Talegaon Starting at 21.5 Lac - All Inc. Namrata's Slim Tower

Radhika Apte turns 32: 10 hot photos of the birthday girl that will make your jaw drop

This Limited Edition 3 BHK Home in Khar Comes with Lavish Amenities Rustumjee

Another Ram Rahim shocker: Dera ad persuaded me to donate my 2-month old-child, woman says | India Videos | - India Today Video



JioFi hotspot dongle on sale at big discount



Mass grave at Dera HQ has 600 skeletons, Ram Rahim's aide reveals to SIT



JioPhone will not be delivered from September 21, now delayed to October 1



BSNL Rs 249 and Rs 4 plans launched: P benefits, validity a they fare against Jio p

peppers and egg white or even the stuffed mushrooms. The signature whisky cocktail, Jazz fusion is easy breezy with peach and honey, while the smoked apricot sour is an inventive rendition of the original. Food aside, the hotel boasts one of the most well-kitted out kiddies club: a pool and TT table, arcade and board games, and an activity area for the toddlers. Parents can enjoy some down time at the pool or poolside bar since rooms are rather modestly spaced. All things being equal, food is what makes the hedonist's triumph transcendent. The proof , as they say, is in the pudding. RESERVATIONS starwoodhotels.com Tel 0832 226 7777 ; Family Studio Room Rs 13000

2) Through the Jharokha

Alila Fort, Bishangarh, Rajasthan

By Prachi Bhuchar



The traditional jharokha-style windows at the resort

There are ample curves and they are more than welcome. The elegant rooms take the shape of the fort and are angular rather than boot cut. It's a relief to find yourself retiring for the night in a hotel room that shrugs conventional shape and at the hotel, while tradition is given weightage, convention is not.

The historic Alila Fort, Bishangarh stands tall on a granite hillock just 6 km off the Delhi-Jaipur highway, about 64 km short of Jaipur. Its 59 suites created inside a 230-year-old fort dating back to the Shahpura dynasty in Rajasthan. The classic warrior fort has been restored with utmost care over a period of ten years by an expert team, and is truly a thing of beauty.

The brown granite exterior is grand, as it sits pretty surveying the neighbouring Aravalli Hills. There are pockets of brilliant green, splashes off blue and beige fields as the last of the crops for the season wait to be harvested. You can play a game of hide and seek as you wind your way around the dimly-lit corridors that meander the length of the fort. The rooms are done up in pale shades, and sport mirrors and the traditional jaali work without being too ornate. The pillow covers sport hand block printed fabric, there are jharoka-style windows and local artefacts and the use of brass and copper give the space a Rajasthani vibe. Almost all rooms have a day bed that hugs a bay window overlooking the village of Bishangarh. Perched as you are at that lofty height, you get a bird's eye view of the region.

the real reason behind his silence:

Medical Plans for Your Parents with No Medical Tests & No Paperwork
PolicyX Insurance Quotes

Dera's WhatsApp gang: How Honeypreet, Ram Rahim's aides are outsmarting Haryana cops | India Videos | - India Today Video

That's How You Find Super Cheap Hotels!
Save70.com

Defence Ministry will not be the same anymore, Nirmala Sitharaman is making these changes

Promoted Links by Taboola

Social News

India Today

TTV Dinakaran Moves Supreme Court Over

23 m

India Today

CROWDYNEWS

Watch Right Now

IAF helicopter crashes in Arunachal Pradesh's Chuna, all 7 personnel onboard killed



The lounge area features Rajasthani decor and motifs

The staff is attentive without being obtrusive, and great care has been taken to ensure your entire experience borders on informal as you have hosts rather than a reception catering to your needs. With an ample pool overlooking fields of green, a play area for children, a gym and a spa that is located in the belly of the fort, time is inconsequential as you follow the sun at the Alila Fort. The Jaipur Gharana architecture features prominently at the fort with touches of Mughal design incorporated as well. In order to ensure there is some assimilation with the neighbouring village, the hotel organises village tours where you can indulge in some pottery, see a carpet being woven, eat a traditional home-cooked Rajasthani meal or just take a lazy camel cart ride through the village as kids and adults alike peep out from behind pillars in an attempt to snap a quick picture.

There is an organic garden, fruit orchard and greenhouse in keeping with the entire natural spin at the resort and the pool side restaurant allows you to select your own vegetables and get them prepared in front of your eyes. The more formal Nazaara is an outdoor terrace restaurant where you can count stars and watch your food being slow cooked in sand pits as the day flips to night. A bar and cigar lounge, an all-day dining space, and a banquet hall round off the banqueting experience.

The joy of Alila Fort lies in two things; one its location between Delhi and Jaipur, allowing people from either city to hop across over the weekend, and the other that while it stands in isolation it is so beautifully integrated with its surroundings and embraces rather than shuns its age-old identity of a warrior fort; one that has a surprise lurking at almost every corner. RESERVATIONS bishangarh@alilahotels.com Tel +91 72300 58058; Rooms are upwards of Rs 15,400 per night (taxes extra)

3) Chic by Design

Ayana, Fort Kochi, Kerala

Design hotels are the new cool and the brief is clear: cater to a new breed of travellers who value aesthetics and are happy to choose boutique over brand. The Ayana, Fort Kochi is one such property that is chic, artsy and draws those who want to retire for the night in a room that's aesthetic and pleasing. With just 16 rooms that lie inside a rambling building which is two centuries old, the original structure stands restored and the interiors reflect an Art Deco-style sensibility. While the hotel is located on a bustling street, once you enter its fold, the din is forgotten as the high ceilings, checkered tiles and lofty architecture takes you back in time.



Art Deco style rooms at the boutique hotel



Exclusive: First image of Honeypreet Insan in Panchkula jail



Gauri Lankesh murder: A month later, senior journalist's killers still roam free



Honeypreet arrest: Haryana CM Khattar blames Punjab Police for delay



More Videos

So Sorry

Narendra Modi: A prime minister who loves cleanliness



More Videos



Top Takes

It's Gone Viral: Miley Cyrus' photo-bombing spree; Pandas celebrate birthday; more



EC to be ready for simultaneous Lok Sabha, Assembly polls by September 2018



Honeypreet complained of chest pain during questioning after arrest



CISF jawan fires in air at Delhi Metro station to control violent crowd



More Videos

Each room reflects a subtle sensibility and the interiors are dotted with art that's been selected to pay tribute to the city which hosts the annual Kochi Biennale. If you have some time to kill, hop up for a view from the roof top as the busy Kochi harbor in all its madness can be witnessed from here. Truly a design delight. RESERVATIONS ayanahospitality.com Tel + 91 484 258 8919; Rooms upwards of Rs 12,000 per night (taxes extra)

4) Desert Rose

The Westin Pushkar Resort & Spa, Rajasthan

By Chumki Bharadwaj

Dunes, dust, long days and longer daydreams, if these are the notes of your desert song, the new Westin Pushkar is a wild card entry. Hemmed by the mango groves and swathes of fragrant rose farms, this is the greenest version of the Aravallis, this side of the Thar. Located a mere dust storm away from the spiritual towns of Pushkar and Ajmer, the hotel is an oasis of intimate nooks that breathe in light and space.

Pleasures of plenty Just short of an all-suite hotel, this property has only 18 rooms to 80 suites and villas, of which 44 villas and suites are sumptuously staffed with private pools, both indoor and outdoor. Dining and entertainment options offer a variety of casual and gourmet experiences with Seasonal Tastes, the signature all-day dining venue leading the roost. The fairly comprehensive menu includes, Indian, regional, oriental and continental options but we highly recommend the regional cuisine, especially Rajasthani, which is superlative. Eat well is a Westin dictum, and is followed with minimum fuss, clean flavours, innovative pairings and fresh ingredients-herbs and veggies are sourced from their very own farms bordering the property.



Sunset at Panorama, the rooftop restaurant

Food is a spectator sport in most five star restaurants, but here, it is participatory, if you're game. Enjoy chef excursions to the farm to source ingredients, or get behind their two-storey bar, Mix, with the mixologist to stir up bespoke concoctions. Their rooftop lounge Panorama offers the best views of the surrounding hills, resort and pool; it is perfect to capture the cloudless desert sky, especially if you're nocturnal. Feast on the stars but do save space for the best from the barbie with grills, wraps and imaginative cocktails to lift the spirits on bracing desert nights. For less fuss, Splash, the poolside bar, is perfect for cool beverages and a cooler vibe.

Games people play For families on weekend getaways, there's enough in store to keep the children imaginatively occupied with the Kids Club and recreation centre that includes pool, board games, table tennis, and even a mini bowling alley that should be operational soon. For cine buffs, there's a mini theatre that seats 20, which is complimentary; just needs to be booked in advance. The 15-acre property is beautifully manicured with cosy nooks set up for romantic moments or family time within the gardens and open spaces that have been well paved for cycling jaunts as well. For more serious gym rats, there is a well-equipped gym as well as a terraced yoga studio that is in the offing. While the children are away, it's time to play; bliss the time away at the Heavenly Spa by WestinTM. With six treatment rooms and signature spa treatments from Ayurvedic to oriental and western treatments, sating the soul does not have to include stepping outside the hotel at all. As for spiritual salvation, look no further than the end of the rose bushes. RESERVATIONS www.starwoodhotels.com Tel +91 145 277 4400; Rooms upwards of Rs 14,000 per night (taxes extra)

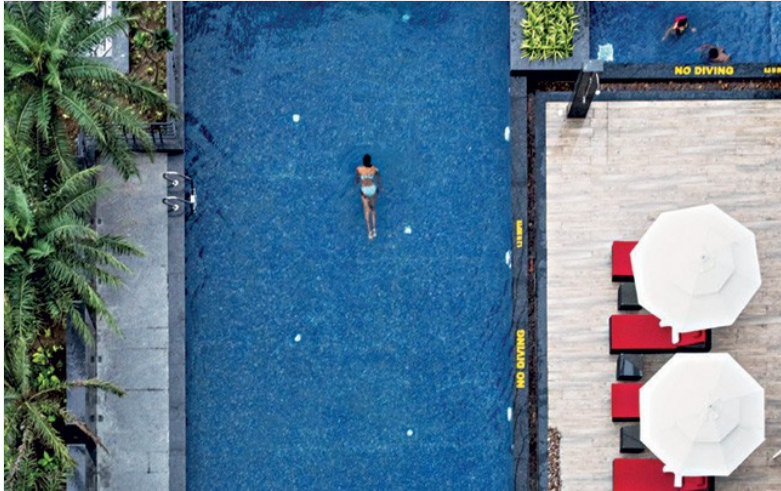
5) Meeting Point

Hyatt Regency, Lucknow Uttar Pradesh

By Prachi Bhuchar

Lucknow, with its rich history is the perfect retreat for those looking to immerse themselves in the traditions of the North. Given that hotels chains are now eyeing smaller cities, it comes as no

surprise that after the Renaissance and Lebua hotels, the Hyatt Regency has made its way to Lucknow.



While this hotel does not go all out on the frills front, given that it is chiefly a business hotel, there's something simple and pleasing about its structure and interiors. With meeting areas being a prime focus here, there is close to 19,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting space including a 4,200 sq ft Regency Ballroom. Its location, 20 minutes from the airport and in the middle of the business zone, gives it further points. Perfect for mixing business and pleasure. RESERVATIONS lucknow.regency@hyatt.com Tel +91 522 426 1234; Rooms upwards of Rs 8,000 per night (taxes extra)

For more news from India Today, follow us on Twitter [@indiatoday](https://twitter.com/indiatoday) and on Facebook at facebook.com/IndiaToday

For news and videos in Hindi, go to [AajTak.in](https://aajtak.in). ताज़ातरीन ख़बरों और वीडियो के लिए आजतक.इन पर आएँ.

DO YOU
LIKE THIS STORY?

1 0

Check in to check out # Le Meridien # Alila Fort # Ayana # Hyatt Regency

YOU MAY LIKE

Sponsored Links by Taboola

Engage Your 2-8 Year-old In The Most Productive Way
Magic Crate

Premium Residencies. 1 & 2 BHK Starting Rs. 71.5 Lac*.
Puraniks

Zero GST. Pay just 5% to book a home @ Raj Altezza, Mulund-W. #OncelIn50Years
Rajesh LifeSpaces

Maintenance Free Bike Rental @ Rs.2100/month
Rentomojo

A touching tale of 2 brothers. Join now to watch Tubelight.
Amazon Prime Video

1/2/3.5 BHK in Goldcrest Residency, Ghansoli
Bhairav - Goldcrest Residency

FROM INDIA TODAY GROUP

by Taboola

Honeypreet, Vishwas Gupta were happily married for 11 years. Then came papaji