Business Traveller INDIA

AUGUST 2024 ₹200

BEYOND BUSINESS

Unveiling the grandeur of MICE & Weddings in India's finest hotels

HYDRATION HARMONY

Maximising skincare wellness for frequent travellers

CHIC ACCENTS

Elevating styles and confidence with luxury accessories

REPORT

Alba Terrace at The Abu Dhabi Edition, Vida Rica Restaurant at Mandarin Oriental, Macau and more

Skyline SYMPHONY

Discovering Singapore's unparalleled charm and luxury hospitality offerings

THE WESTIN
HYDERABAD
MINDSPACE

Experience the epitome of opulent love at The Westin Hyderabad Mindspace.

Elevate your story with custom menus, enchanting venues, and luxurious accommodations.

1996 sq.mt. Banquet Space

12 Venues

427 Keys

Outdoor Lawns

Pool Deck

Business Traveller INDIA

AUGUST 2024 ₹200

BEYOND BUSINESS

Unveiling the grandeur of MICE & Weddings in India's finest hotels

HYDRATION HARMONY

Maximising skincare wellness for frequent travellers

CHIC ACCENTS

Elevating styles and confidence with luxury accessories

REPORT

Alba Terrace at The Abu Dhabi Edition, Vida Rica Restaurant at Mandarin Oriental, Macau and more

JW MARRIOTT
BENGALURU

A Landmark in Business Travel

Discover approachable luxury and exceptional city centre convenience at JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru. Catering to the needs of the business traveller, the hotel is a serene space in the heart of the city, featuring conference and meeting rooms equipped with state-of-the-art audiovisual technology.

Unwind with a range of amenities and services like comfort-enhanced rooms & suites, a tranquil spa for moments of bliss and a fitness centre for rejuvenating your mind, body and soul. Indulge in an award-winning range of signature delicacies originating from diverse cuisines from around the world, crafted by our chefs for an utterly soul-satisfying experience.

Are you a Marriott Bonvoy member? Sign up today to avail member exclusive offers, bonus points, complimentary nights and more.

For more information, call +91 80 6718 9999

JW Marriott Bengaluru Hotel

24/1, Vittal Mallya Road, Bengaluru-560001 | jwmarriottbengaluru.com

jwmarriottblr JWMarriottHotelBengaluru JWMarriottBLR

Go There With
MARRIOTT BONVOY™

Shaadi by MARRIOTT BONVOY

For enquiries, please contact us:

amit.verma@westin.com +91 81210 33762

Business Traveller INDIA

AUGUST 2024

REGULARS

12 UPFRONT

Business travel news from around the world, hotel of the month and air miles

17 TIME STOPPER

Seiko Prospex 1965 Heritage Diver Special Edition

75 SHOWSTOPPER

Lifo Floor Lamp by Fig Living

FEATURES

54 HYDRATION HARMONY

The crucial role of hydrating skincare products in a wellness regime

64 CHIC ACCENTS

Luxury accessories elevating personal styles with elegance

72 GLAMOUR OASIS

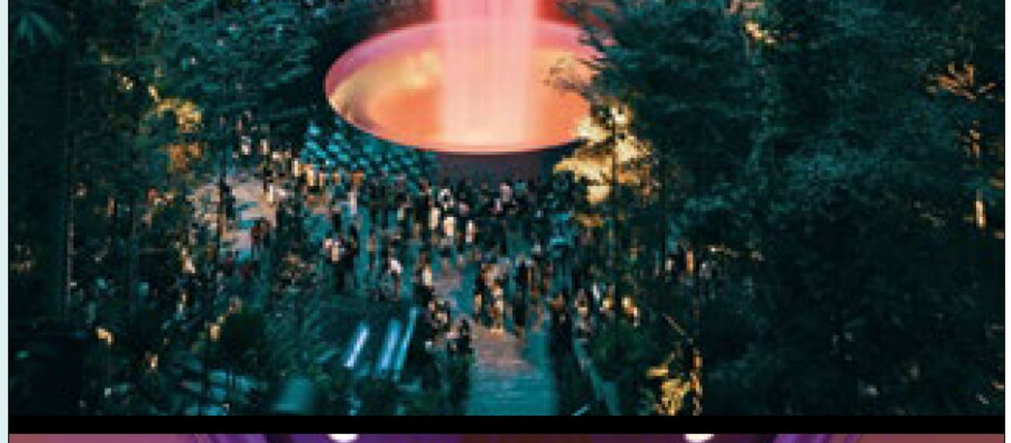
Retail extravaganza at Outletcity Metzingen

ON THE COVER

SKYLINE SYMPHONY

An ode to Singapore's urban and cultural majesty

18



THE REPORT

TRIED AND TESTED RESTAURANTS

78 Alba Terrace at The Abu Dhabi Edition

79 Vida Rica Restaurant at Mandarin Oriental, Macau

80 Hoi An at Shangri-La Dubai

81 Kangan at The Westin Hyderabad Mindspace

ST REGIS
SINGAPORE

Stay Exquisite

Experience a spacious sanctuary in the grandeur of The St. Regis Singapore. Anchored at the crossroads of shopping belt Orchard Road and within walking distance of UNESCO World Heritage Site, Singapore Botanic Gardens, luxuriate in our legacy of innovation and impeccable service presented through the signature St. Regis Butler Service.

The St. Regis Singapore
29 Tanglin Road Singapore 247911 t. +6565066868 stregissingapore.com

Stay exquisite at more than 40 St. Regis hotels and resorts worldwide.
@stregishotels

MEMBER OF MARRIOTT BONVOY

WELCOME

Welcome to the August 2024 issue of Business Traveller India!

This issue delves into the intersection of luxury hospitality across some of Asia's most dynamic cities. In our cover story spotlighting Singapore, we uncover the allure of this cosmopolitan gem, exploring its vibrant culture, exquisite dining scene, world-class attractions, and luxury hospitality that captivates visitors from around the globe.

Turning our focus to domestic hospitality, we highlight India's key metropolitan hubs - from Bengaluru's cutting-edge MICE facilities to Delhi's opulent wedding venues, Hyderabad's blend of tradition and innovation, Goa's beachside luxury, and Mumbai's iconic hospitality landmarks, we showcase the finest MICE and wedding facilities in Indian luxury hotels. In the realm of fashion, we explore how luxury accessories can transform and elevate attire for discerning business travellers discovering how they add refinement and confidence to wardrobes. Additionally, we address hydration and skincare regimes for globetrotters navigating their fast-paced journeys. Join us on this journey through luxury, hospitality, and style as we unveil a seamless and indulgent travel experience.

This and more we bring to you for your reading pleasure. We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed writing it!

From all of us, we wish you safe travels!

Khursheed Mistry Consulting Editor

IN THIS ISSUE

SKYLINE SYMPHONY
An offbeat exploration of Singapore's vibrant cityscape
(pg 18)

BEYOND BUSINESS
The seamless sophistication of MICE and weddings in some of India's best hotels
(pg 34)

HYDRATION HARMONY
The vital role of hydrating skincare products for a holistic skincare regime
(pg 54)

CHIC ACCENTS
The allure of luxury accessories to enhance sophisticated wardrobes
(pg 64)

5 Raffles Avenue, Singapore 039797 +65 6338 0066 mandarinoriental.com/singapore

Business Traveller INDIA

Publisher & CEO Ravi Lalwani
Managing Director Julian Gregory
Executive Director Meena Lalwani

EDITORIAL
Consulting Editor Khursheed Mistry
Assistant Editor Anithya Balachandran
Production & Design Head Amit Chavan
Contributors Deeppreet Bindra, Katrin Herz

ADVERTISING
Commercial Director Ravi Lalwani
Email ravi@panaceapublishing.co.in

CONTACT
Editorial tel +91 9820022110
Email editorial@panaceapublishing.co.in
Website businesstraveller.com
Twitter.com/bt_ind
Instagram businesstravellerin
Facebook.com/BusinessTravellerIndia
Advertising tel +91 9820022110
Email info@panaceapublishing.co.in

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Tel +91 9004015411
Email info@panaceapublishing.co.in
Print subscription 1 year for just ₹1,950

Business Traveller India is published 11 times a year at our address (right). *Business Traveller India* is the first of its kind to be published in India. The magazine is entirely independent of all commercial interests within the travel industry. All rights reserved in respect of all content, articles, illustrations and photography published in *Business Traveller India* anywhere in the world. Reproductions or imitations are expressly forbidden without the permission of the publishers. Unsolicited manuscripts will not be accepted for publication and *Business Traveller India* accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to them. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publishers, who cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Business Traveller has the following international editions: Germany, Poland, Hungary, Asia-Pacific, China, India, Netherlands, North America, Middle East and U. K

RNI NO.: MAHENG 2016/71766. Printed & Published by Ravi Lalwani on behalf of Panacea Publishing Pvt. Ltd. Printed at Indigo Press (India) Pvt. Ltd. Plot No.1C/716, Off Dadoji Konddeo Cross Road, Between Sussex And Retiwala Ind. Estate, Byculla (East), Mumbai - 400 027. Maharashtra and Published at 3 Hampton Court, 123, Wodehouse Road, Colaba, Mumbai 400 005.

Premier Marina Bay Room

JW MARRIOTT
SINGAPORE SOUTH BEACH

EXPERIENCE REFINED LUXURY

Come together for meaningful moments with a mindful stay curated to bring you focus on mind, body and spirit at our design-led hotel located within Marina Bay.

Rejuvenate your soul at our signature wellness spa or immerse in experiential dining at our award-winning restaurants and bars.

JW Marriott Singapore South Beach
jwmarriottsingapore.com

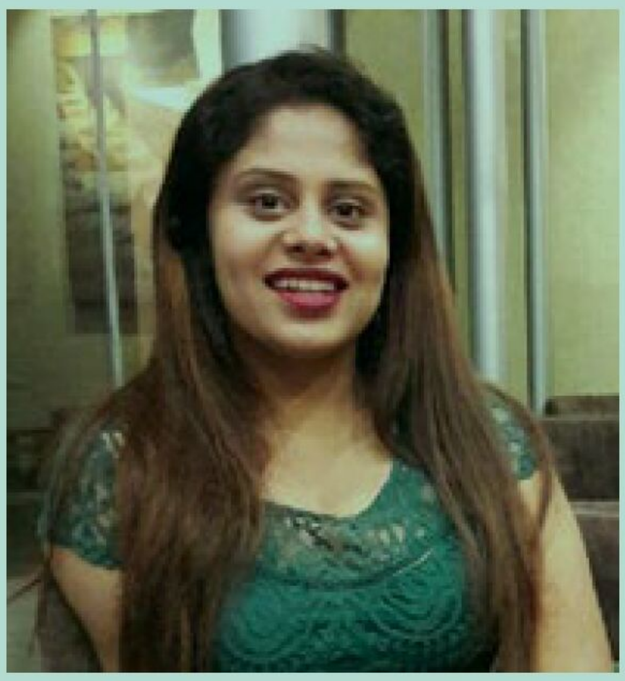
Go There With
MARRIOTT BONVOY™

KATRIN HERZ

With over 20 years of hospitality experience, Katrin Herz joined The Abu Dhabi EDITION as General Manager in December 2020. Herz aims to elevate the hotel's status as a leading luxury property, driving post-pandemic recovery and creative partnerships. In this issue, she discusses redefining the welcome experience in luxury hotels on page 74.

DEEPPREET BINDRA

Deeppreet Bindra's career began at American Express, later transitioning to hospitality with significant contributions at The Oberoi Hotels and Resorts and various Marriott establishments. With over a decade of experience at Marriott International, he is known for his unwavering commitment to operational excellence. In this issue, he discusses the evolution of fine dining experiences in luxury hotel restaurants on page 76.



ANITHYA BALACHANDRAN

Anithya Balachandran, Assistant Editor of Business Traveller India, transitioned from digital marketing to journalism and has been with the publication since 2021. With travel as her favourite beat, she ensures to travel personally when not on work assignments. In this issue, you can see a picture she took of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul during her recent Turkish escapade on page 82.

SUBSCRIBE

YOUR INVITATION TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEW LOOK MAGAZINE

YES, I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE TO BUSINESS TRAVELLER INDIA

☐ 1 YEAR FOR JUST ₹1,950

NAME (MR/MRS/MS/DR): _____ **JOB TITLE:** _____

COMPANY NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

TEL: _____ **E-MAIL ID:** _____

Please complete this form and email it to info@panaceapublishing.co.in

PAYMENT METHOD: PAYMENTS TO BE MADE BY NET BANKING.

BENEFICIARY NAME: PANACEA PUBLISHING PVT LTD / BANK ACCOUNT NO: 50200001342454 / IFSC CODE: HDFC0000501

Panacea PUBLISHING PVT LTD

3 Hampton Court, A Wing, 123 Wodehouse Road, Colaba, Mumbai 400005
Shmira Prasanth +91 9004015411

AIR MILES

Business Traveller India speaks to Suraj Gupta and Sanskriti Gupta, a visionary sibling duo and second-generation entrepreneurs, about their new restaurant Fiori-Lonavla, design, the hospitality business and more.

Fiori stands out not just as a restaurant but as a labour of love. Can you share the journey of bringing Fiori to life and the roles each of you played in this venture?

Suraj - Sanskriti primarily handled construction and interiors, while I focused on the set-up of operations and logistics. Though distinct on paper, our roles often led to classic sibling bickering, as everything was a first for us—our first menu, site, design, and more. Our journey began a year ago when our father sparked the idea for the glasshouse. Instinctively, Sanskriti and I delineated our roles, though the vision for Fiori remained fluid, shaped by our shared experiences and evolving ethos. Fiori, meaning 'flower' in Italian, symbolises personal growth—from an inexperienced Economics undergrad to a budding restaurateur. It stands as a testament that if we could open a restaurant, anyone can.

As an Economics graduate with extensive travel experience, how have these influences shaped your approach to hospitality at Fiori? Can you share specific examples of how your travel experiences have been integrated into Fiori's offerings?

Suraj - Most of my travel and dining experiences are local, often at places far from fine dining or renowned establishments. During my university travels across North India, the highlights were the personalised interactions with founders, chefs, and servers at local joints, which allowed me to experience the food as a story. When Sanskriti and I began working on Fiori, despite not being chefs, I initially saw this as a drawback. However, I soon realized it was a blessing in disguise. On the floor, I relish engaging with guests, sharing Fiori's story and the ethos behind the entire experience—from furniture and lighting to the food and bar program. Our team's motto is to make guests feel at home, just as Lonavala is for many.

Your background in architecture and your collaboration with the interior designer has given Fiori its unique glasshouse appeal. Can you tell us more about your design philosophy and how you managed to integrate natural elements into the restaurant's ambience?

Sanskriti - My background in architecture and design has instilled a meticulous attention to detail, which greatly influenced the creation of Fiori. I envisioned a space that connects people to the outdoors while being indoors, with the glasshouse concept at its core. Each drive to Lonavala, through lush greenery and mountains, was a calming experience for me, and Fiori pays homage to that feeling by offering framed views of nature from within the glasshouse, replicating the serene experience of looking out a car window during those drives. I believe that well-designed, aesthetically pleasing spaces can uplift and inspire, evoking positive emotions. For me, great design is a visual treat, blending details, styles, colours, and textures. At Fiori, the sunlight interacts with various shades of wood, the natural landscape contrasts with vintage lamps, and clouds peek through the glass, while playful branding elements lift moods. Every detail contributes to a harmonious visual experience, making Fiori a place where guests feel at home and at peace—like an expansive living room for dining with friends, family, and loved ones.

Family businesses often come with their own set of challenges and advantages. How has being second-generation entrepreneurs influenced your vision and execution for Fiori? What lessons from the family-owned Regenta SG's Greenotel have you brought into this new venture?

Sanskriti- Working in a family business involves honouring the values and insights we've learned from our father while infusing those ideas with a contemporary touch to make them uniquely ours. My dad is a visionary with boundless creative ideas, providing a solid foundation. My role is to bring those ideas to life in a way that resonates with today's audience. Explaining the nuances of modern design elements, the small details that contribute to the bigger picture, can sometimes be challenging. It's about helping each generation understand and appreciate each other's perspectives. Fiori exemplifies this synergy, combining his creative brilliance with my keen eye for visual aesthetics and meticulous attention to detail.

Suraj- One of my core values as a founder is being a generalist. I believe it's more beneficial to have a broad understanding of various aspects—sourcing, engineering, branding, and plating—than to master just a few. This involves critically evaluating every idea while allowing experts to guide you. Questioning norms leads to stronger ideas, better executions, and enhanced experiences.

THE LANGHAM, NEW YORK, FIFTH AVENUE

HOTEL OF THE MONTH

Situated in the heart of Fifth Avenue, The Langham, New York is the epitome of sophisticated luxury. Its refined rooms and elegant suites offer breathtaking skyline views and feature exclusive Duxiana mattresses for unparalleled comfort. The Empire State Presidential Suite, specifically, masterfully designed by Roche Bobois with distinctive Hermès accents and artwork by Alex Katz, provides an unrivalled urban sanctuary with floor-to-ceiling windows that frame the Empire State Building. Guests of this exquisite suite enjoy private chef service from the Michelin-starred Ai Fiori restaurant, along with a curated minibar and pantry. Elevating exclusivity, The Langham Club on the fourth floor offers modern amenities and exceptional service, with all-day refreshments and culinary masterpieces from The Langham's acclaimed culinary team. **langhamhotels.com**

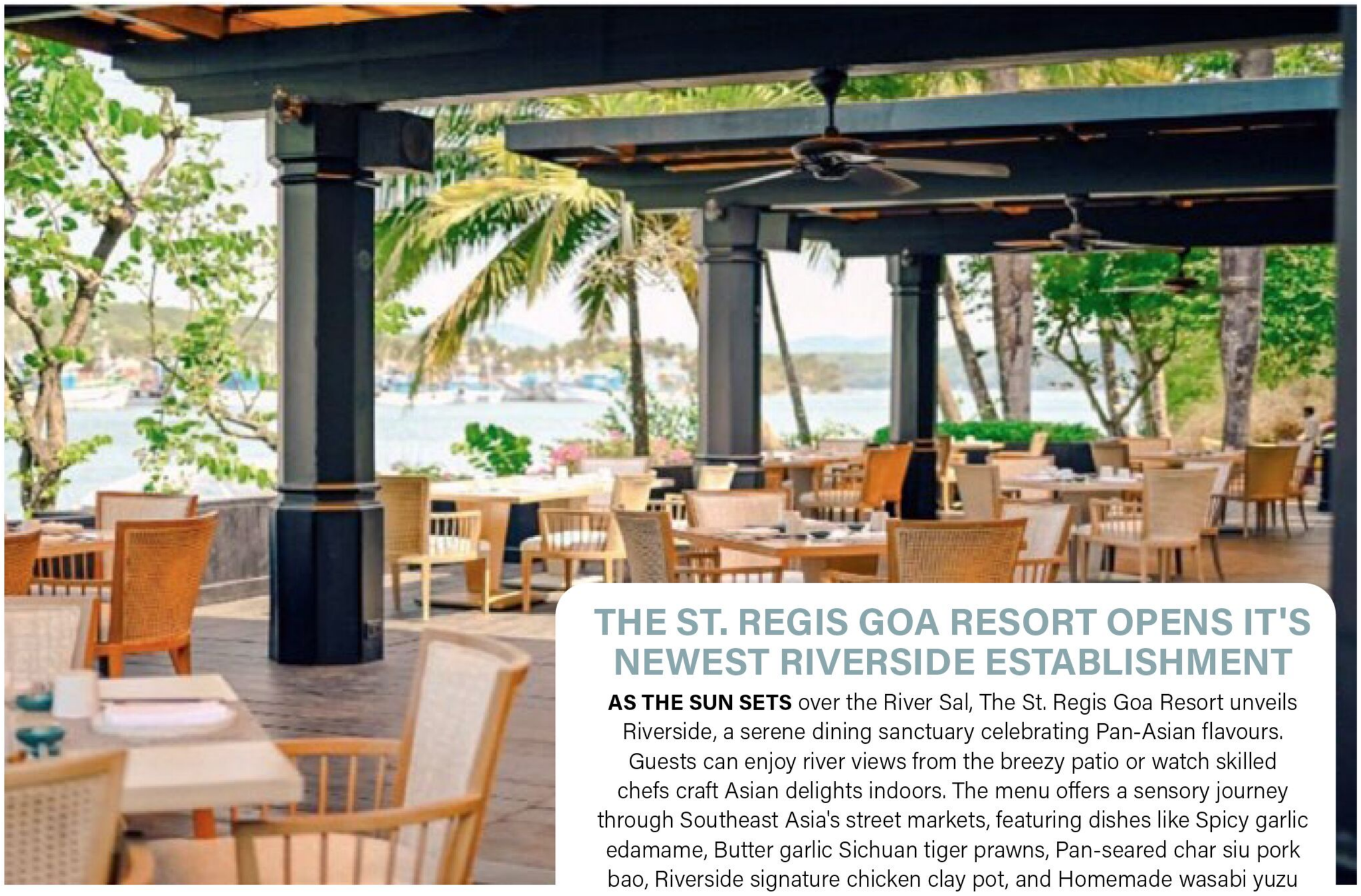
FRANKFURT AIRPORT MARRIOTT HOTEL SECURES PRIME LOCATION AT FRANKFURT AIRPORT T1

FRANKFURT AIRPORT MARRIOTT HOTEL offers a stylish and sophisticated retreat directly connected to Terminal 1 and the ICE train station. With 233 rooms, including family rooms, suites, and the exclusive M Club, the hotel provides residential-like spaces designed to inspire and comfort travellers. Guests can unwind at the full-service spa, maintain their fitness routine at the 24-hour gym, and enjoy a full American breakfast, Starbucks coffee, and a variety of international and German dishes at the on-site restaurants and bars.

marriottfrankfurtairporthotels.com

AIR INDIA TO OPEN ITS FLIGHT TRAINING SCHOOL IN AMARAVATI

AIR INDIA ANNOUNCED plans to establish a flying school in Amaravati, Maharashtra, with an investment of ₹200 crore. The school aims to graduate 180 pilots annually and is slated to open by June 2025. Located at Belora Airport, the school will be the first of its kind operated by an Indian airline, featuring 31 single-engine Piper Archer aircraft and three twin-engine Diamond 72 aircraft. The flying training organisation is a joint initiative with the Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd, which awarded Air India the tender to build and run the school. Spread over more than 10 acres, the state-of-the-art facility will include digitally enabled classrooms, a digitised operations centre, and its maintenance facility. Campbell Wilson, Air India's CEO, expressed that the graduates from this FTO will play a crucial role in Air India's goal of becoming a world-class airline. **airindia.com**



THE ST. REGIS GOA RESORT OPENS IT'S NEWEST RIVERSIDE ESTABLISHMENT

AS THE SUN SETS over the River Sal, The St. Regis Goa Resort unveils Riverside, a serene dining sanctuary celebrating Pan-Asian flavours. Guests can enjoy river views from the breezy patio or watch skilled chefs craft Asian delights indoors. The menu offers a sensory journey through Southeast Asia's street markets, featuring dishes like Spicy garlic edamame, Butter garlic Sichuan tiger prawns, Pan-seared char siu pork bao, Riverside signature chicken clay pot, and Homemade wasabi yuzu sorbet. With chic white interiors, a lofty louvred ceiling, and an outdoor terrace, Riverside combines a relaxed yet refined ambience with attentive service, focusing on the essence of leisurely riverside dining in Goa.

stregisgoa.com

INDIA BECOMES THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST DOMESTIC AIRLINE MARKET

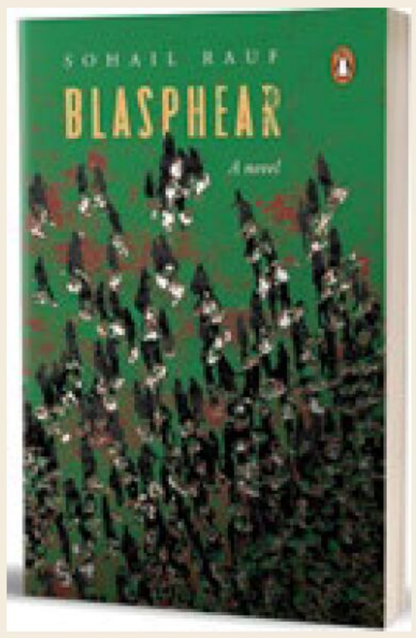
INDIA HAS RAPIDLY become the third-largest domestic airline market globally, with 15.6 million seats in April 2024, up from eight million a decade ago, driven by a 6.9 per cent annual growth rate. This expansion, outpacing Brazil and Indonesia and trailing only the US and China, is the highest among major markets, with China at 6.3 per cent. Low-cost carriers dominate India's aviation sector, comprising 78.4 per cent of domestic capacity, the highest among the top five markets. IndiGo, the leading LCC, has grown its market share from 32 per cent in 2014 to 62 per cent in 2024, with a 13.9 per cent annual increase. The sector has added 83 new airports in the past decade, totalling 157, and recorded its highest single-day air traffic on November 19, 2023, with 456,910 passengers, a 7.4 per cent increase over pre-Covid levels. The Digi Yatra initiative saw over 91 lakh passengers using its services, with more than 35 lakh app downloads in 2023.

INFLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

Our tips to make time fly by

READ: ***Blasphear by Sohail Rauf***

Sub-inspector Waqas Mahmood, disillusioned with the police force and eager to quit, is initially inclined to dismiss the apparent suicide of a seventeen-year-old boy in the sweltering town of Shantinagar, Punjab, in Pakistan. However, the boy's friend insists it was murder, linking the case to the horrific lynching of a Hindu art teacher accused of blasphemy. As Waqas delves deeper, he unravels a tale of friendships transcending religious boundaries, shattered by betrayal and fanaticism. Haunted by childhood fears, Waqas must decide whether to succumb to the terror of religious bigots or uphold justice in a society desperately in need of it.



WATCH: ***Unfrosted***

In 1963 Michigan, the fierce rivalry between cereal giants Kellogg's and Post reaches new heights as they strive to invent a groundbreaking breakfast pastry. This intense competition forms the backdrop of Jerry Seinfeld's star-studded feature directorial debut, promising to redefine the morning meal.

LISTEN: ***Modern Love by The New York Times***

For two decades, The New York Times' Modern Love column has provided readers with insight into the complex and multifaceted world of real-life romance. This iconic column has evolved into a television series, three books, and a podcast. Host Anna Martin tells stories and leads discussions about love in all of its beautiful variations, foolish mistakes, and transformative experiences.

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Idioms from around the world that have us scratching our heads. This issue, it's a Cantonese expression.

Phrase: *nei hai ngo tou leoi min tiu cung*
Literally: *You're a worm in my belly*
Meaning: *You know me inside and out*

SEIKO

PROSPEX 1965 HERITAGE DIVER'S SPECIAL EDITION

The new Seiko Prospex collection reimagines the 1965 diver's watch, now powered by the Caliber 6R55 movement with a 72-hour power reserve, marking its first appearance in the Prospex line. Enhanced to ensure 300m water resistance, these non-saturation diver's watches feature a relocated date window between four and five o'clock for a more symmetrical design and increased Lumibrite space for better legibility in darkness. The compact design includes shorter lugs for improved wearability, a 40mm diameter, 46.4mm lug-to-lug length, and 13mm thickness. The stainless steel bezel with an aluminium insert and laser-engraved minute markings offers a classic look, while a new bracelet with shorter links and a smaller clasp ensures greater comfort. **seikowatches.com**

SKYLINE SYMPHONY

Exploring Singapore beyond it's global financial powerhouse status

WORDS ANITHYA BALACHANDRAN

Innovation and technology spearhead Singapore's ambition to become the world's inaugural fully smart nation. The integration of digital and smart technologies drives economic growth, creates new job opportunities, and fosters groundbreaking solutions that redefine urban living. Over the past decade, Singapore's government has meticulously laid the foundation for this transformative journey. Coupled with its distinction as one of the world's greenest cities, featuring expansive parks and an abundance of open green areas, Singapore not only captivates as a leisure destination but also entices as a highly coveted place to reside.

Situated at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, it is renowned for hosting Southeast Asia's largest and among the world's busiest ports. Celebrated for its technological advancements and architectural marvels, Singapore stands firm as a premier global tourist destination. In 2019, the city welcomed a record-breaking 19.12 million visitors before the pandemic disrupted global travel patterns. Despite a sharp decline in outbound tourism from 10.7 million in 2019 to just 1.54 million in 2020, Singapore is rapidly restoring its prominence, evidenced by an extraordinary 1100 per cent surge in international arrivals in the first half of 2022.

Recent years have witnessed a remarkable surge in Indian travellers flocking to Singapore. From leisure seekers eager to explore iconic attractions to business professionals scouting opportunities, Singapore has captured the imaginations of Indian visitors. In 2023, Singapore warmly received 1.1 million Indian tourists, ranking India as the fifth largest tourism market, following Indonesia, China, Malaysia, and Australia.

Singapore's visa policies plays a pivotal role in further attracting Indian travellers, offering streamlined procedures such as e-visas and visa-free transit options for up to 96 hours, catering to the convenience of Indian passport holders. The online visa application process is expedient, with an average processing time of five to six working days. The visa grants a stay of up to 30 days and is valid for up to two years, facilitating multiple entries.

REJUVENATION GALORE

Singapore is emerging as a leading urban wellness destination, emphasising holistic well-being principles and providing highly curated services to match. This dedication is evident in the city's biophilic design, a notable feature is Jewel Changi Airport, where travellers and citizens alike can revel in the serenity of the world's tallest indoor waterfall, cascading amid lush greenery made up of thousands of shrubs, trees, and canopies. The city's dedication to integrating nature with urban living continues with its extensive Park Connector Network, linking key urban attractions such as Gardens by the Bay and Marina Bay Sands to major parks and natural reserves.

Singapore's life expectancy has increased significantly over the last few decades, rising by 25 years and securing its position as the world's sixth "Blue Zone" in 2023. This achievement demonstrates the effectiveness of Singapore's national policies that prioritise health and wellness. The government has created an environment that promotes longer, healthier lives by encouraging Singaporeans to adopt healthier lifestyles through innovative programs and infrastructure. Since 2022, the Wellness Festival Singapore has been a flagship national initiative that promotes holistic well-being among both locals and visitors. This island-wide festival promotes wellness through a variety of pillars, including fitness, emotional and mental wellness, and enriching lifestyle opportunities. Here is BTI's curated selection of wellness offerings that we believe one should indulge in during their stay at the urban sanctuary!

WORKSHOPS IN GEM ART

Delve into the transformative power of gem art at Gemstory's studio, located in the Brash Basah Complex, one of Singapore's oldest heartland malls. Participants can immerse themselves in the appreciation of natural gems, plants, and calming scents, resulting in a relaxing and enriching experience.

HOLISTIC THERAPIES AT THE EU YANG SANG TCM CLINIC

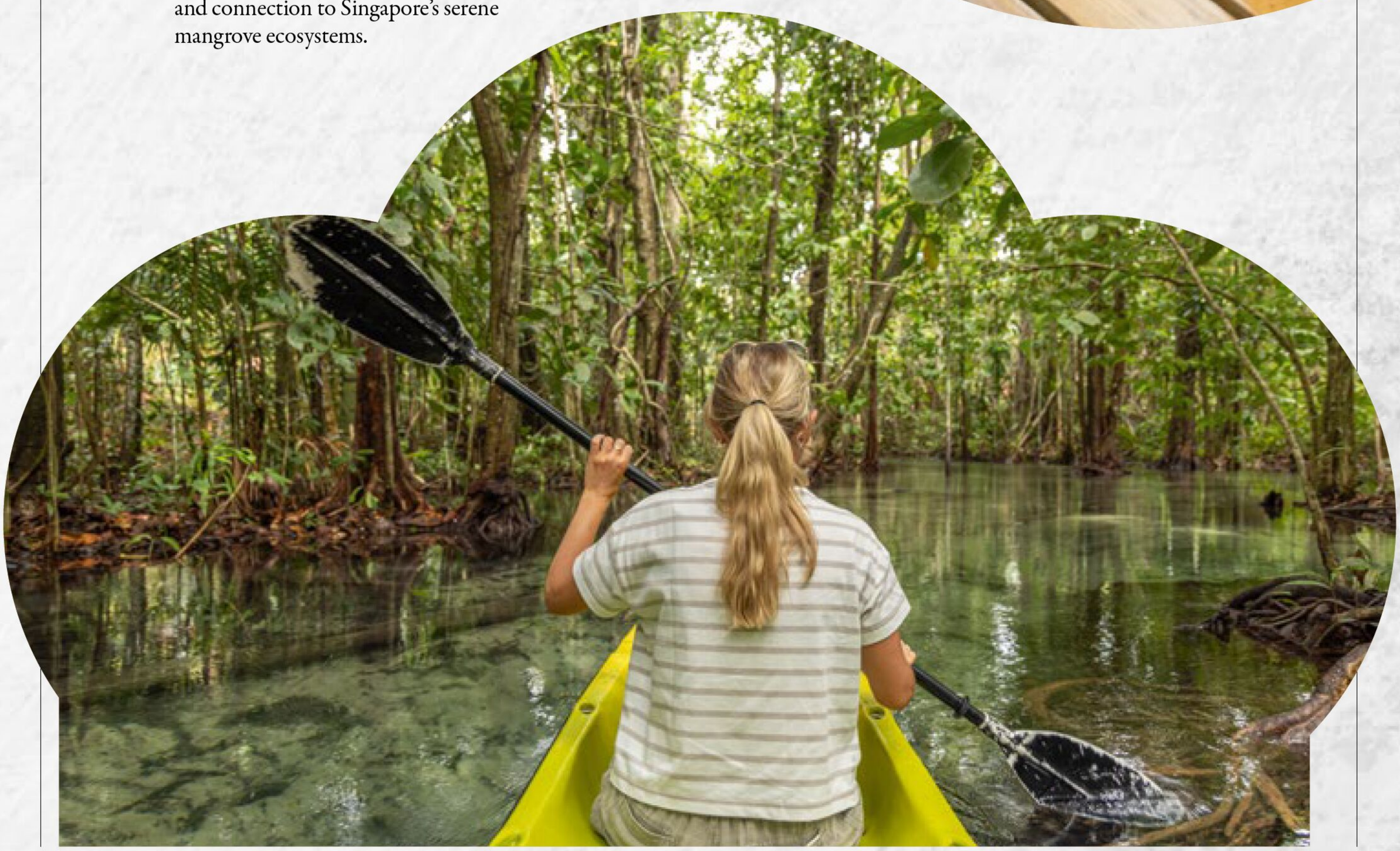
Eu Yang Sang TCM Clinic can revitalize your body with ancient traditional Chinese medicine remedies. This clinic, known for its balms and tonics, offers a deep dive into ancient Chinese beliefs about healing and vitality, with experts eager to share their knowledge and expertise.

OO LA LAB

Oo La Lab invites you to take a fragrant journey and create your signature perfume. This hands-on workshop will teach you how to blend fragrances and create a unique and harmonious scent that reflects personal essence.

MANGROVE KAYAKING

A kayaking adventure through Pulau Ubin's mangroves provides an opportunity to experience nature's tranquility. This waterborne excursion provides a one-of-a-kind opportunity to see diverse wildlife in their natural habitat, as well as a sense of adventure and connection to Singapore's serene mangrove ecosystems.



OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

When exploring a new city, it's all too easy to fall back on tried-and-true recommendations. However, it's only by straying from the well-worn tourist trails that one truly taps into the city's essence and vibrancy. Forgo the clichéd hotspots for a more genuine and immersive experience. Singapore has a treasure trove of lesser-known yet profoundly enchanting nooks and crannies.

YUNNAN GARDEN

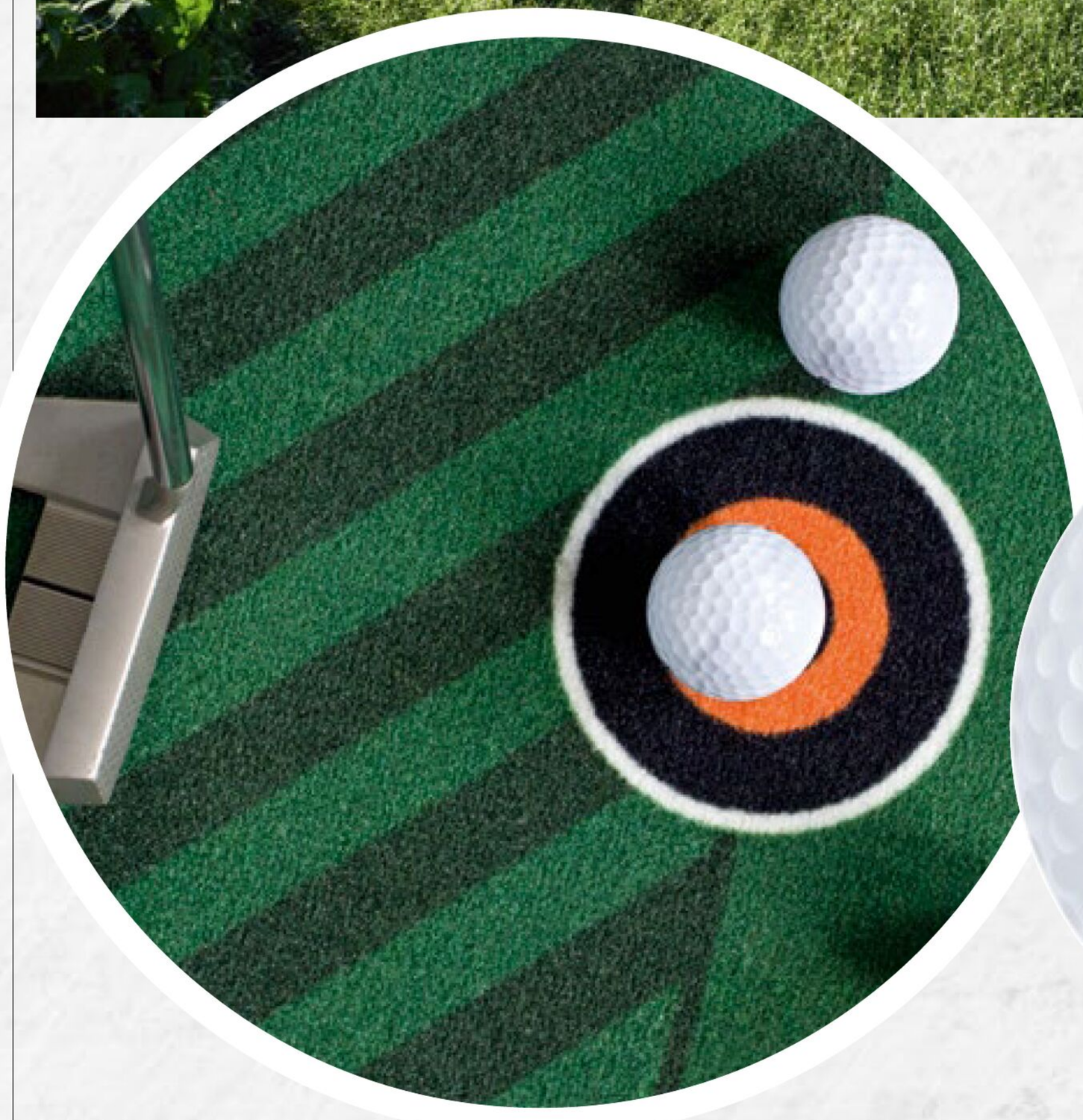
Established in the 1950s, Yunnan Garden is the birthplace of Nanyang Technological University and is replete with historical monuments. Following its renovation in 2020, this 9-hectare heritage precinct now integrates seamlessly with the Chinese Heritage Center and the expanded Nanyang Lake. The garden, now a haven for nature enthusiasts, features 1,000 newly planted trees spanning over 80 species.

KONG MENG SAN PHOR KARK SEE MONASTERY

Founded in 1921, Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery is one of Singapore's earliest traditional Chinese forest monasteries. The sprawling monastery covers 75,470 square meters—nearly the size of 11 football fields. Between the Dharma Hall and the Pagoda of 10,000 Buddhas, visitors will find an immense statue of the bodhisattva Guan Yin. The nearby Hall of No Form houses one of Asia's largest indoor Buddha statues, a bronze giant standing 45 feet tall and weighing several tons. The expansive grounds, featuring gardens and a Dragon Pond, are especially enchanting during festive celebrations.

CLEMENTI FOREST

Clementi Forest spans 85 hectares of secondary forest that has naturally regenerated over the past three to four decades. This hidden wilderness boasts remnants of forgotten railway tracks, tunnels, muddy trails, and river crossings, offering a unique adventure for those who explore its depths

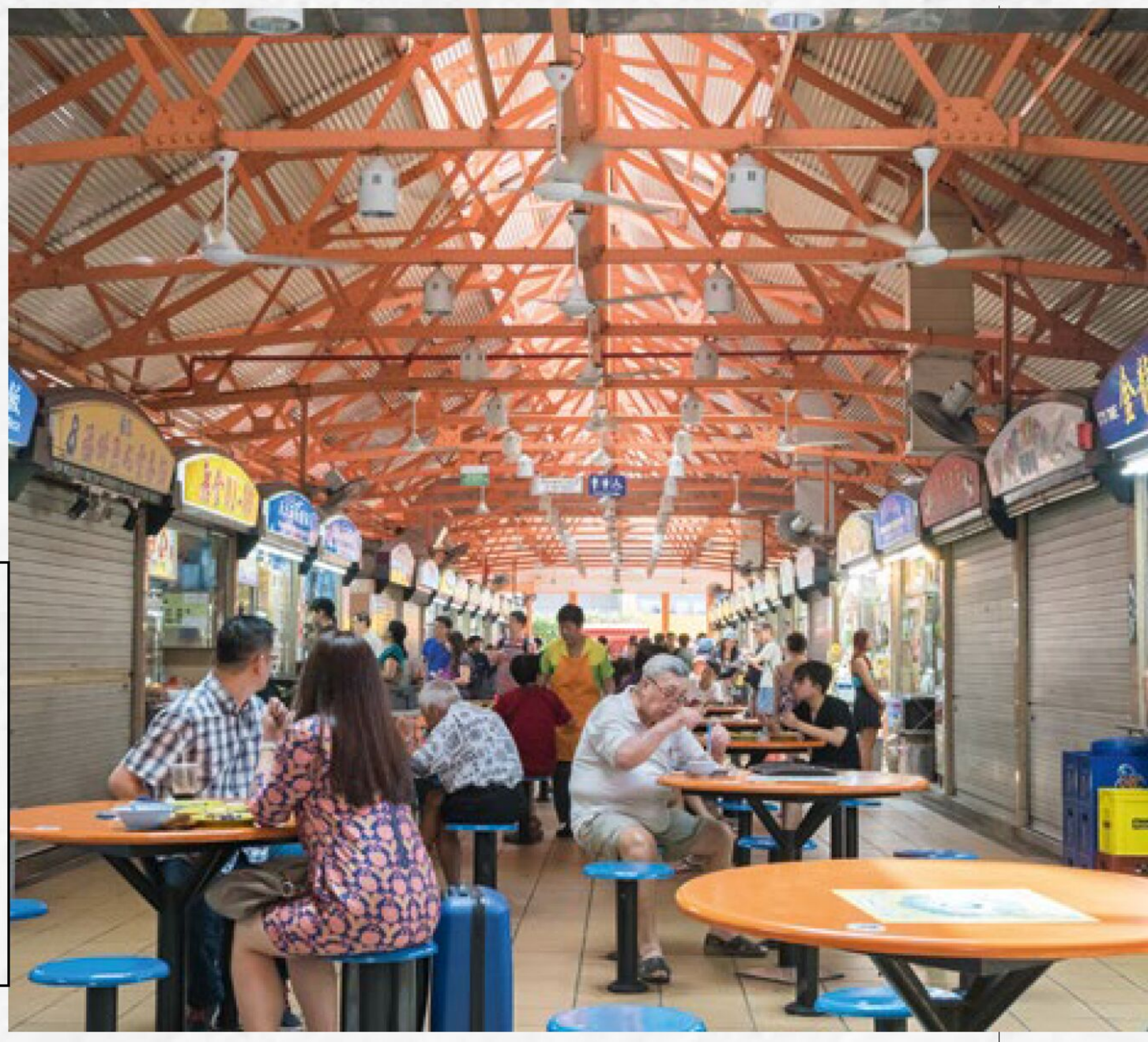


KULNARI MYSTERY GOLF

At Kulnari Mystery Golf, one can solve puzzles, play mini golf, and uncover thrilling mysteries. This immersive course blends historical facts with creative storytelling, transporting players to 1920s Boat Quay to solve a mysterious event at the Kulnari Trading Company. Hidden within the building, the Salon Atheneaum offers a refreshing break with a selection of drinks at the midpoint of your journey.

PALATE PLEASERS

From bustling hawker markets to esteemed Michelin-starred restaurants, Singapore stands as a beacon of culinary diversity. Rooted in modest beginnings, Singaporean hawker cuisine has garnered international acclaim, boasting Michelin stars and UNESCO recognition for its unique flavours and cultural significance.



MAXWELL FOOD CENTER

Maxwell Food Centre is a culinary landmark, celebrated by locals and tourists alike for its authentic Singaporean hawker fare. It's the definitive spot to immerse yourself in the true flavours of Singapore.

WATSON LIM - DA DONG PRAWN NOODLES

After his father was diagnosed with cancer, Watson Lim took charge of the family's storied hawker stall. He continues to serve their iconic prawn noodles to a loyal following along Joo Chiat Road, preserving a cherished culinary tradition.

KEK

Kek, with its roots in the 1970s and accolades like the Michelin Plate, specialises in seafood and classic zi char dishes. Their Signature Moonlight Hor Fun, a delightful combination of flat rice noodles, raw egg, Chinese sausage, and sliced fish, is a must-try.

THEVAR

Chef Mano Thevar curates a cutting-edge, multi-course menu that fuses Indian heritage with European finesse. Chettinad chicken roti and Brittany lobster in curry beurre blanc are two dishes that combine bold flavours with sophisticated touches. A vegetarian option is available with advance notice, and the extensive wine list, featuring over 600 labels, offers diverse pairings. Thevar proudly holds two Michelin stars.

NIGHTCAP NIRVANA

No travel experience is complete without discovering a spot to unwind after a day of exploration, and bars are the perfect places for this respite. A distinguished bar offers more than just a drink; it provides a unique ambience, a glimpse into local culture, and a haven for relaxation. Singapore's bar scene, celebrated for its innovative mixology, elegant interiors, and impeccable service, is a cornerstone of the city's charm. Whether savouring a classic cocktail or an avant-garde creation, these establishments ensure that every sip enhances one's travel memories.

SYNTHESIS

Synthesis celebrates the deep interplay between food, health, and harmony, inspired by the ancient wisdom of Huangdi Neijing. Their culinary ethos merges traditional wisdom with modern innovation, emphasising balance and natural healing. Each offering on the menu is meticulously designed to resonate with the Five Elements—wood, fire, earth, metal, and water. Their signature cocktails, made with wellness-enhancing ingredients, round out the holistic dining experience.

LAST WORD

Inspired by the vintage cocktail Last Word, this establishment blends a nostalgic charm with contemporary flair. This restaurant and cocktail bar showcases simple Japanese favourites alongside meticulously crafted classic cocktails. The centrepiece is an elegant 8-metre-long wooden bar, where guests can watch bartenders and chefs carefully prepare drinks and dishes. Cosy seating at low tables enhances the warm, inviting ambience, making it ideal for enjoying both food and drinks with larger groups.

ANALOGUE

Analogue is at the forefront of revolutionising the dining and drinking experience, driven by curiosity and innovation. They embrace innovative methods, ingredients, and technologies, establishing the benchmark for modern bar culture. Featuring a 3D-printed bar top, tables made from recycled plastic, and a fully plant-based menu, Analogue's team is committed to sustainability. From creating inclusive spaces to sourcing eco-friendly ingredients and optimising energy use, envision a future that prioritises harmony with the planet.

WINE RVLT

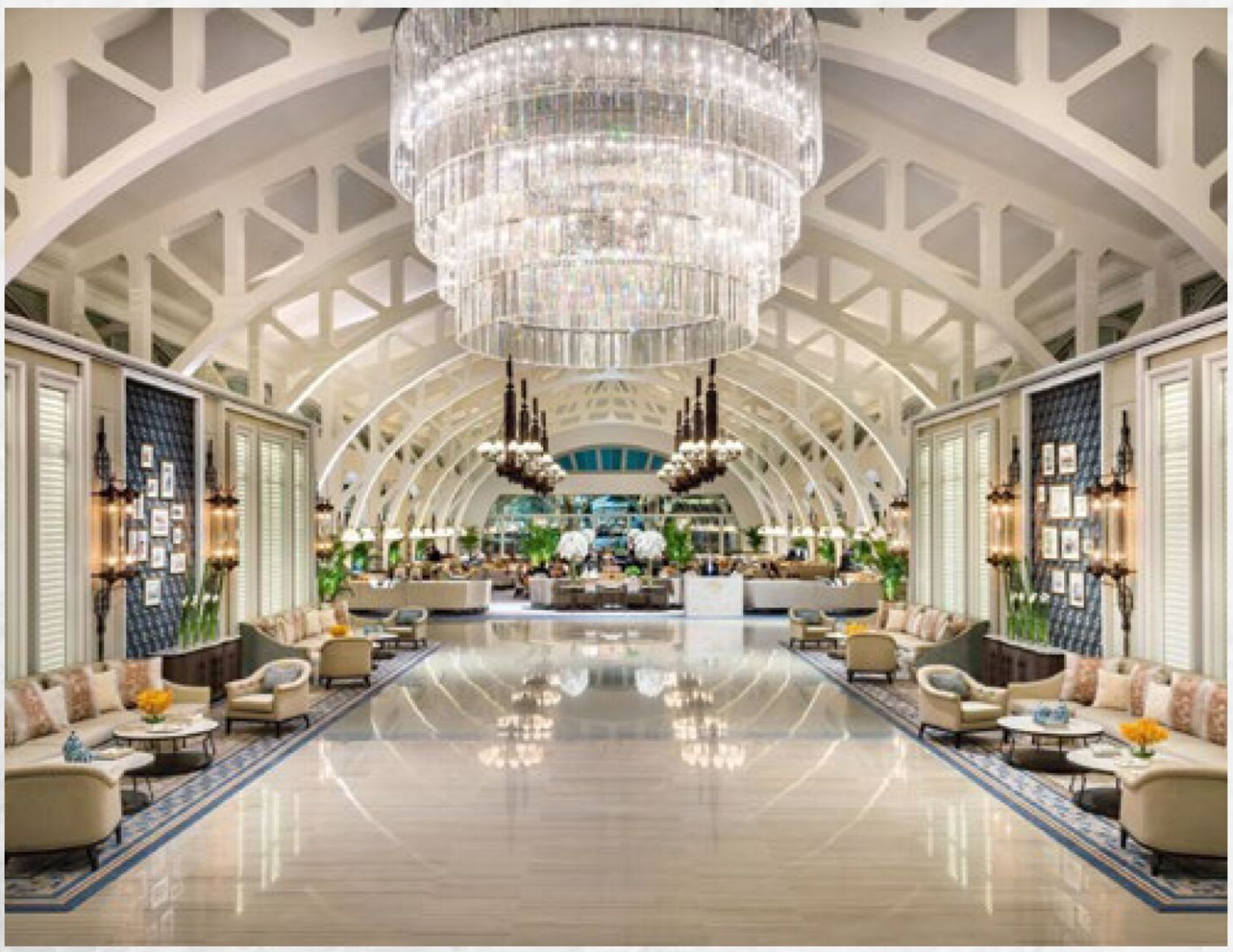
RVLT is a distinguished wine bar in Singapore, celebrated for its curated selection of natural wines sourced globally. Alongside these, guests can enjoy a variety of bar snacks. RVLT prides itself on its extensive collection, which includes hidden gems from lesser-explored wine regions. Regular visitors are encouraged to explore the shelves for weekly updates. For those seeking variety, the daily refreshed by-the-glass program offers a delightful option. Embracing a communal spirit, RVLT's menu features elevated yet approachable snacks, appetisers, mains, and desserts, creating an atmosphere perfect for gathering with friends.

WHERE TO STAY

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, SINGAPORE

Perched overlooking Marina Bay, Mandarin Oriental, Singapore, epitomises luxury and sophistication. Recently reimagined to reflect the essence of Singapore, the 510 rooms and 42 suites offer stunning vistas of the sea, bay, and city. For extended stays, the 45 residential suites feature one to four bedrooms. Indulge in eight exceptional dining venues, including the acclaimed MO BAR, and rejuvenate at The Spa at Mandarin Oriental. Experience elevated luxury and exclusive privileges at HAUS 65, their newly transformed lounge—a serene haven for enriching conversations surrounded by elegance and sophistication.
mandarinoriental.com/singapore

THE FULLERTON BAY HOTEL SINGAPORE



The Fullerton Bay Hotel Singapore combines sleek modernity with nostalgia, offering 100 elegantly appointed rooms in a contemporary international style. This waterfront gem, located in Singapore's vibrant heritage precinct, captivates with its exquisite setting. Explore a diverse culinary journey, from Singaporean signatures to refined French classics, across its restaurants. Enjoy classic French cuisine at La Brasserie, bespoke cocktails and afternoon tea at The Landing Point, or relax with panoramic views at the Lantern rooftop bar.
fullertonbayhotelsingapore.com

THE ST. REGIS SINGAPORE

Nestled at the nexus of Singapore's embassy district, Orchard Road shopping haven, and the iconic Singapore Botanic Gardens, the opulent hotel exudes refinement. Set amidst visually striking interiors, the hotel features one of Asia's most prestigious private art collections and 299 lavishly appointed rooms and suites. Guests can indulge in unmatched luxury with access to The St. Regis Spa and impeccable service at Astor Bar, The Astor Grill, and Yan Ting. Each space is adorned with carefully curated details, such as crystal chandeliers and original artwork. The well-known St. Regis Butler Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to ensure guests' comfort and convenience.
stregissingapore.com

THE CAPITOL KEMPINSKI HOTEL SINGAPORE

At the historic intersection of Stamford Road and North Bridge Road, where iconic movie billboards once enchanted visitors, stands The Capitol Kempinski Hotel Singapore, exemplifying the pinnacle of luxurious European hospitality. The Lady in Red, a brand ambassador who personifies impeccable service and timeless European elegance, welcomes guests. Each of the 155 guest rooms and suites, starting at 42 sqm, features stunning architectural details, spacious layouts, luxurious bathrooms with deep-soaking baths, and modern amenities like a Sonos audio system and complimentary non-alcoholic minibar. Suite guests enjoy additional perks, including a complimentary daily gourmet breakfast.
kempinski.com/singapore

PAN PACIFIC SINGAPORE

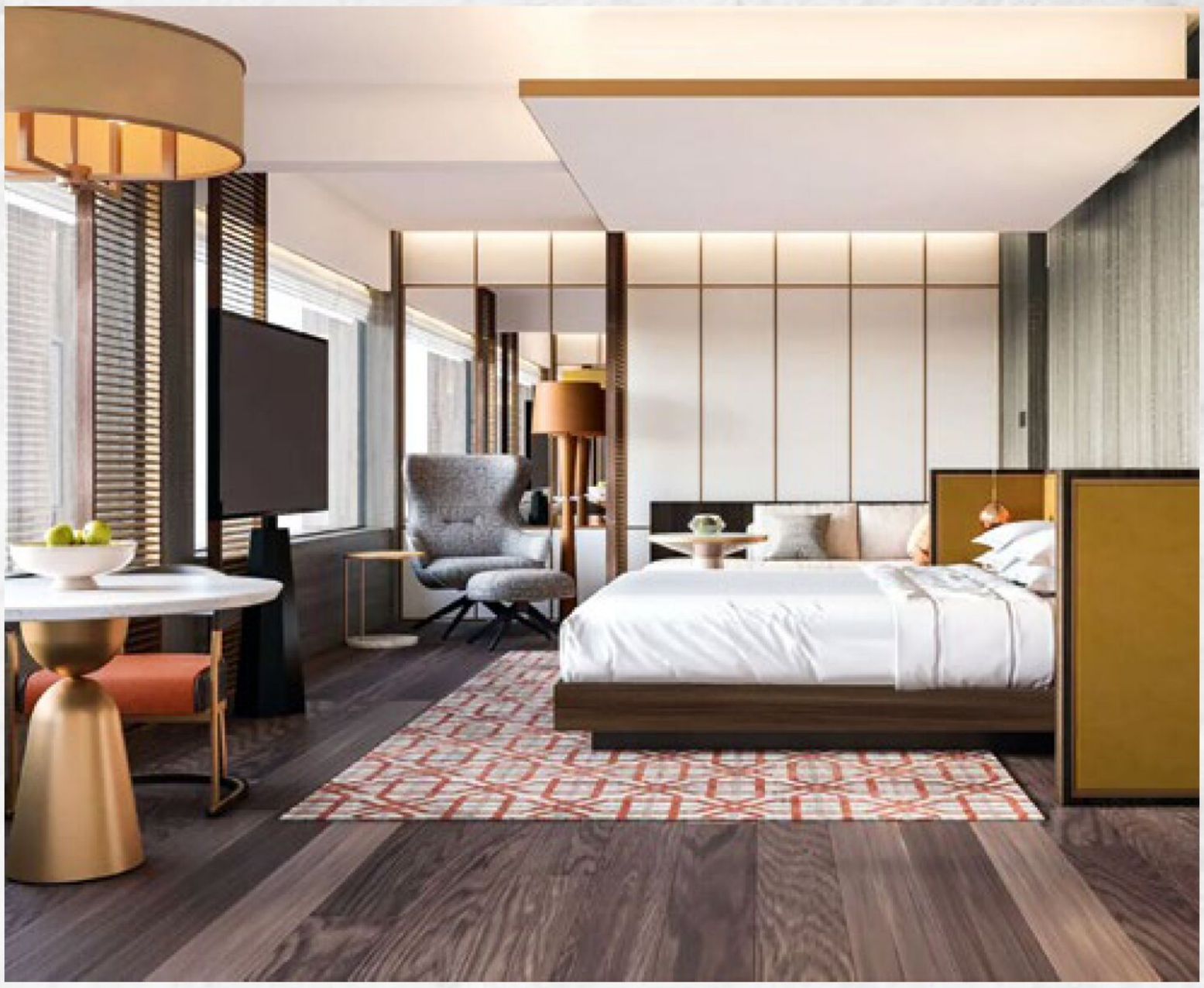
With its prime location, this luxury hotel in Singapore is conveniently located within walking distance of the city's major attractions. The opulent rooms, complete with modern furnishings and thoughtful amenities, provide the ideal setting for a relaxing stay. The Pacific Club Lounge, located on level 38, provides breathtaking 360-degree views of Marina Bay, the South China Sea, and the city skyline. The Pacific Club experience includes amenities such as refreshments, cocktails, and personalised guest services, ensuring an elevated stay.
panpacific.com/singapore

JW MARRIOTT HOTEL SINGAPORE SOUTH BEACH

Located in Marina Bay and the Central Business District, JW Marriott Hotel Singapore South Beach offers easy access to top attractions like the National Stadium and National Gallery. This luxurious retreat effortlessly combines historic charm with contemporary elegance. Guests can relax in impeccably appointed accommodations, featuring sophisticated interiors, sleek marble bathrooms, and intuitive amenities. The signature Spa by JW provides personalised wellness treatments, while the hotel's chic restaurants and bars serve refined cuisine and creative cocktails. Nature enthusiasts will appreciate the tranquil JW Garden, and those seeking peace can unwind at the Hushed Habitat or Sky Escape.
jwmarriottsingapore.com

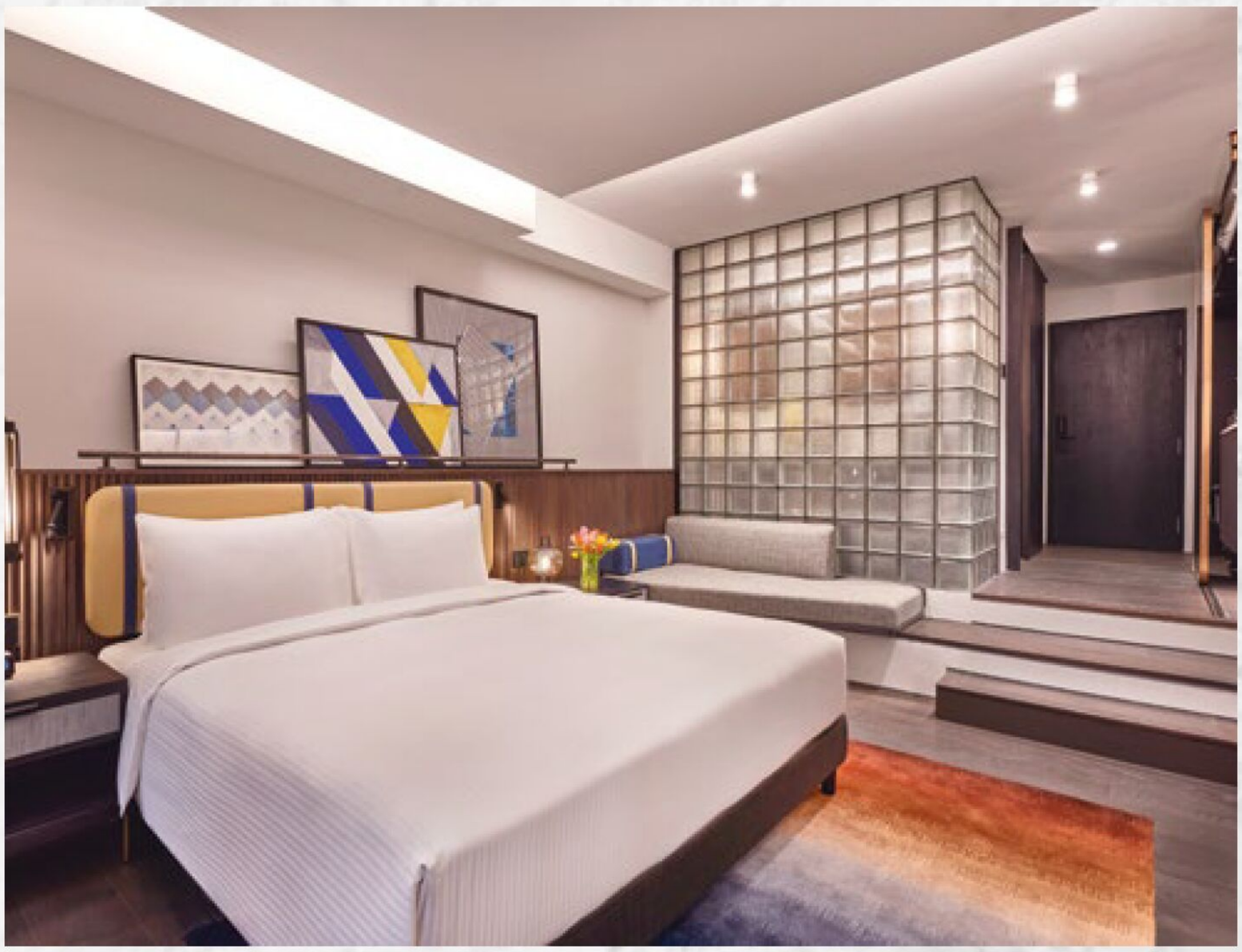
GRAND HYATT SINGAPORE

Situated in the heart of Singapore's iconic Orchard Road shopping and entertainment district, Grand Hyatt Singapore is a reimagined luxury hotel that showcases bold, vibrant spaces designed to offer unique atmospheres. With 699 rooms and suites, the property offers refreshing designs inspired by nature and the city's multicultural essence. The Grand Wing features a Grand Living Room, ideal for gatherings and celebrations, while the Terrace Wing provides an urban oasis and wellness retreat with lush landscaping and a cascading waterfall, all just steps away from the bustling streets.
grandhyattsingapore.com



PULLMAN SINGAPORE ORCHARD

Pullman Singapore Orchard is renowned as one of the top luxury hotels in the area. The distinctive property seamlessly integrates playfulness with creative innovation. Embracing state-of-the-art technology, from digital check-ins to in-room automation and integrated entertainment, the hotel caters to the demands of today's interconnected world. Guests are invited to relax at the 24-hour fitness center, swim in the pool, or maintain their fitness routine with an In-Room Fitness kit.
pullmansingaporeorchard.com BTI



BEYOND BUSINESS

Uncovering the perfect blend of luxury and innovation with opulent MICE and wedding facilities in some of India's best hotels

WORDS KHURSHEED MISTRY

Business Traveller India welcomes you to the world of indulgence and sophistication, where Indian luxury hotels redefine hospitality with their exquisite MICE and wedding facilities. These refined establishments amalgamate opulence with functionality, offering unparalleled experiences for business and leisure travellers.

MICE

MICE facilities offered by Indian luxury hotels cater to the multifaceted requirements of meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions with utmost sophistication and efficiency. They showcase cutting-edge conference rooms furnished with state-of-the-art audiovisual technology, high-speed internet access, and ergonomic furniture, tailored to foster productive gatherings and conferences. These hotels also extend dedicated event planning services from seating arrangements to catering services, ensuring seamless organisation to orchestrate every detail.

WEDDINGS

Wedding facilities in Indian luxury hotels are meticulously designed to fulfil the vision of a grand celebration with enchanting settings for a fairy-tale wedding. Expansive ballrooms, refined banquet halls, landscaped gardens or terraces offering stunning vistas are embellished with lavish decorations, intricate floral displays, graceful drapes, and sophisticated lighting, creating a stunning ambience. The hotels provide bespoke wedding planning services catering to every aspect of the event from theme conceptualisation, seating arrangements, catering, floral designs, or table settings to vendor coordination and logistical management, ensuring flawless execution.

BENGALURU

THE RITZ-CARLTON, BANGALORE

Nestled in the heart of Bangalore, The Ritz-Carlton presents cutting-edge venues, tailored services, and amenities to orchestrate remarkable meetings, conferences, and business gatherings. Boasting 1435 sqm of event spaces, including a spacious, column-free ballroom complemented by a connecting pre-function area and airy foyer, the venue is bathed in natural daylight. Supported by a dedicated events team, guests are promised an unforgettable experience. The team of wedding experts masterfully curates bespoke marriage celebrations for both local and international guests. From grand ceremonies in the expansive pillarless ballroom to intimate gatherings in private dining rooms, salons, or the lush garden, every event, be it cocktail receptions, sangeets, or mehndi parties, is meticulously catered to. With party halls, catering services, decor experts, and planners at your disposal, we transform each setting into a breathtaking masterpiece, laying the groundwork for your dream destination wedding. **ritzcarlton.com/bangalore**

JW MARRIOTT HOTEL BENGALURU

The JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru epitomises understated luxury, offering unmatched amenities and seamless convenience for meetings and weddings, creating unforgettable memories for all guests. Nestled in Bengaluru's Central Business District, this five-star establishment is just moments away from the lush Cubbon Park to UB City Mall and other attractions nearby. The hotel offers versatile venues with cutting-edge technology and refined amenities for corporate events. From expansive ballrooms to well-appointed boardrooms, the spaces are supported by an attentive event planning team. In the realm of weddings, the JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru is as an enchanting backdrop to exchange vows and celebrate unions. The wedding planners collaborate closely with guests to realise their dream festivities. The elegant ballrooms and picturesque outdoor areas provide captivating settings for ceremonies and receptions, complemented by culinary creations tailored to delight every palate, leaving guests with treasured memories to last a lifetime. **jwmarriottbengaluru.com**

CONRAD BENGALURU

Conrad Bengaluru boasts 1969 sqm of event space, comprising 16 meeting rooms, including three ballrooms, a private foyer, eight meeting rooms, and one boardroom. The second-floor venues feature a dedicated entrance with security and valet services. The lobby is versatile and suitable for welcome receptions or event registration. The Grand Ballroom exudes grandeur, featuring high ceilings, ample natural light, escalators, and elevators. It is a sought-after venue for weddings, exhibitions, corporate functions, or tech events and can be divided into three separate venues. An expert team crafts bespoke events, manages arrangements, decor, and catering menus. Additionally, the hotel encourages sustainable development initiatives, enabling meeting and event planners to reduce carbon emissions and contribute to environmental protection. Conrad Bengaluru provides a Meeting Impact Calculator report which offers insights into the predicted carbon footprint, energy usage, water consumption, and waste generation associated with the meeting or event, aiding in informed decision-making. **conradbengaluru.com**

THE LEELA AMBIENCE GURUGRAM HOTEL & RESIDENCES

The Leela Ambience Gurugram Hotel & Residences is ideally situated at the heart of an upscale locale, just 15 minutes from the airport. Elevate celebrations amidst a fusion of exquisite venues, sophisticated décor, cutting-edge technology, and unwavering excellence. Featuring pillarless halls hosting up to 1,000 guests, a dedicated entry for wedding attendees, a private road for processions, a sprawling open terrace for al fresco ceremonies, a grand wedding hall boasting soaring 13-feet ceilings, and a majestic pearl ballroom towering at 16 feet, the offerings are designed to exceed expectations. Experience the concept of 'Dine by Design,' meticulously crafted for exclusive events such as Valentine's Day soirées, sweet 16 extravaganzas, or milestone graduation announcements. The meeting rooms and venues seamlessly blend aesthetic interiors with state-of-the-art amenities, setting the stage for productive gatherings and memorable events. **theleela.com/the-leela-ambience-gurugram-hotel-residences**

TAJ MAHAL, NEW DELHI

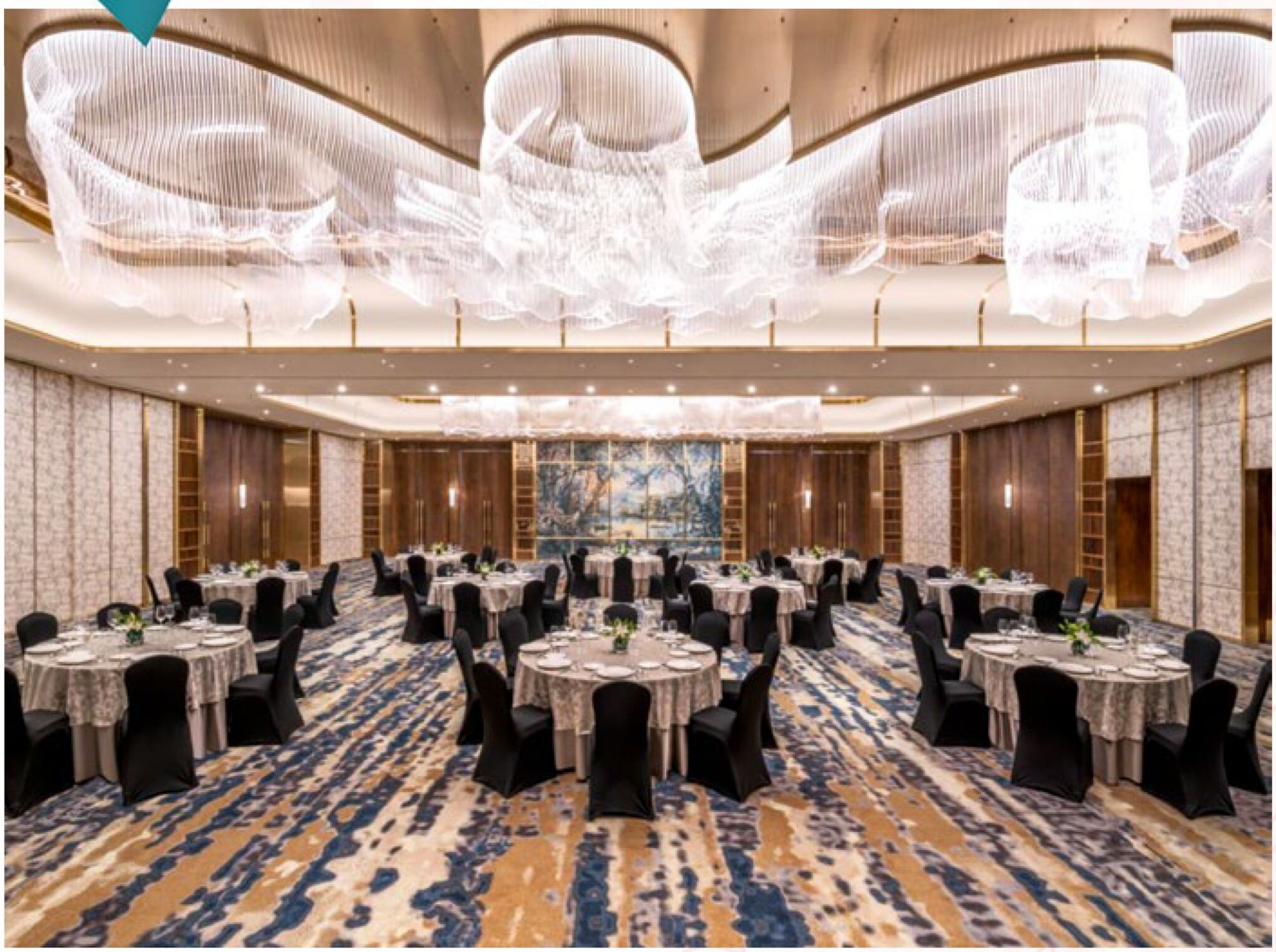
Taj Mahal, New Delhi, stands as a premier luxury 5-star deluxe hotel nestled in the heart of the city. Its prime location offers unparalleled views of the lush boulevards of Lutyens Delhi. Renowned for its exceptional hospitality, the Taj Mahal is the epitome of elegance making it the preferred venue for landmark events. Featuring a variety of venues suitable for intimate gatherings or grand celebrations, its banquet halls are unmatched. Whether marking personal milestones or hosting corporate events such as awards, galas, or retreats, it ensures an impeccable experience with its signature service. For generations, Taj Hotels have been synonymous with unforgettable weddings, where dedicated experts curate every detail to reflect the essence of dream celebrations. **tajhotels.com**

HYATT REGENCY DELHI

Hyatt Regency Delhi boasts 2,977 sqm of adaptable and cutting-edge meeting and event spaces, flooded with natural light and equipped with state-of-the-art technology. Whether planning a lavish wedding, a corporate gathering, or an intimate business function, the venues are designed to cater to every need. The contemporary boardrooms provide an intimate setting for up to 16 guests, featuring permanent boardroom tables for productive discussions. Strategically located on the second, sixth, and seventh floors, as well as on the banqueting level, these spaces are ideal for smaller meetings and gatherings. Experience an unparalleled wedding journey at Hyatt Regency Delhi, where creativity knows no bounds. From the sophisticated Oval Room to the majestic Regency Ballroom and the versatile Living Rooms, the hotel offers a variety of venues which accommodate up to 1,000 guests. The dedicated banquet team is committed to crafting bespoke menus and ensuring a seamless and unforgettable occasion. **hyattregencydelhi.com**

ITC MAURYA - A LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL, NEW DELHI

A beacon of grandeur, ITC Maurya has stood as the favoured abode for visiting dignitaries and global luminaries and embodies the essence of opulent hospitality in New Delhi. Boasting an array of refined banquet spaces, the hotel excels in hosting corporate gatherings, lavish social affairs, and chic events. Expert teams meticulously attend to decor, culinary delights, audio-visual arrangements, and those personalised touches that elevate every experience. With a spectrum of venues catering to varying scales, from intimate settings to grand spectacles, the hotel ensures versatility. The expansive Kamal Mahal hall, divisible into three distinct spaces, offers remarkable adaptability. Meanwhile, the picturesque Nandiya Garden provides an idyllic setting for gatherings, festivities, and corporate extravagances. With its dedicated banquet team, culinary mastery, and penchant for perfection, ITC Maurya emerges as the quintessential destination for every occasion. **itchotels.com/itcmaurya**



JW MARRIOTT GOA

JW Marriott Goa offers captivating event spaces spanning 591 sqm. It features three elegant event rooms and two breakout rooms, meticulously designed for corporate events. The Grand Salao Ballroom, hosting up to 250 guests, stands as a pinnacle of sophistication. Cosy meeting rooms offer an ideal setting for intimate gatherings, equipped with state-of-the-art AV technology and high-speed wifi for seamless presentations. From formal luncheons to evening cocktail receptions, every detail is curated by the expert culinary team. The outdoor terrace, resplendent with lush greenery, provides a picturesque backdrop for relaxed networking. Professional planners ensure each meeting room is tailored to exact specifications, or they handle the intricate planning of weddings, allowing focus on the celebration. The exquisite wedding venues, enhanced by the scenic outdoor terrace, create unforgettable moments against Goa's breathtaking backdrop. **jwmarriottgoavagator.com**

THE ST. REGIS GOA

The St. Regis Goa redefines meetings and weddings with an unparalleled blend of luxury and sophistication. Whether hosting a corporate event or wedding celebration, the exquisite venue, flawless service and dedicated team ensure an unforgettable experience. The state-of-the-art facilities cater to every need and versatile meeting spaces are equipped with the latest technology and customisable setups to make the event seamless. When it comes to weddings, The St. Regis Goa sets the stage for timeless elegance and romance. Stunning venues, including lush outdoor spaces and elegant ballrooms, provide the perfect backdrop for a grand celebration or an intimate affair. A team of dedicated specialists work tirelessly to bring your vision to life, from exquisite décor to sumptuous catering. The St. Regis Goa doesn't just host meetings and weddings, they create cherished memories for guests that will last a lifetime. **stregisgoa.com**

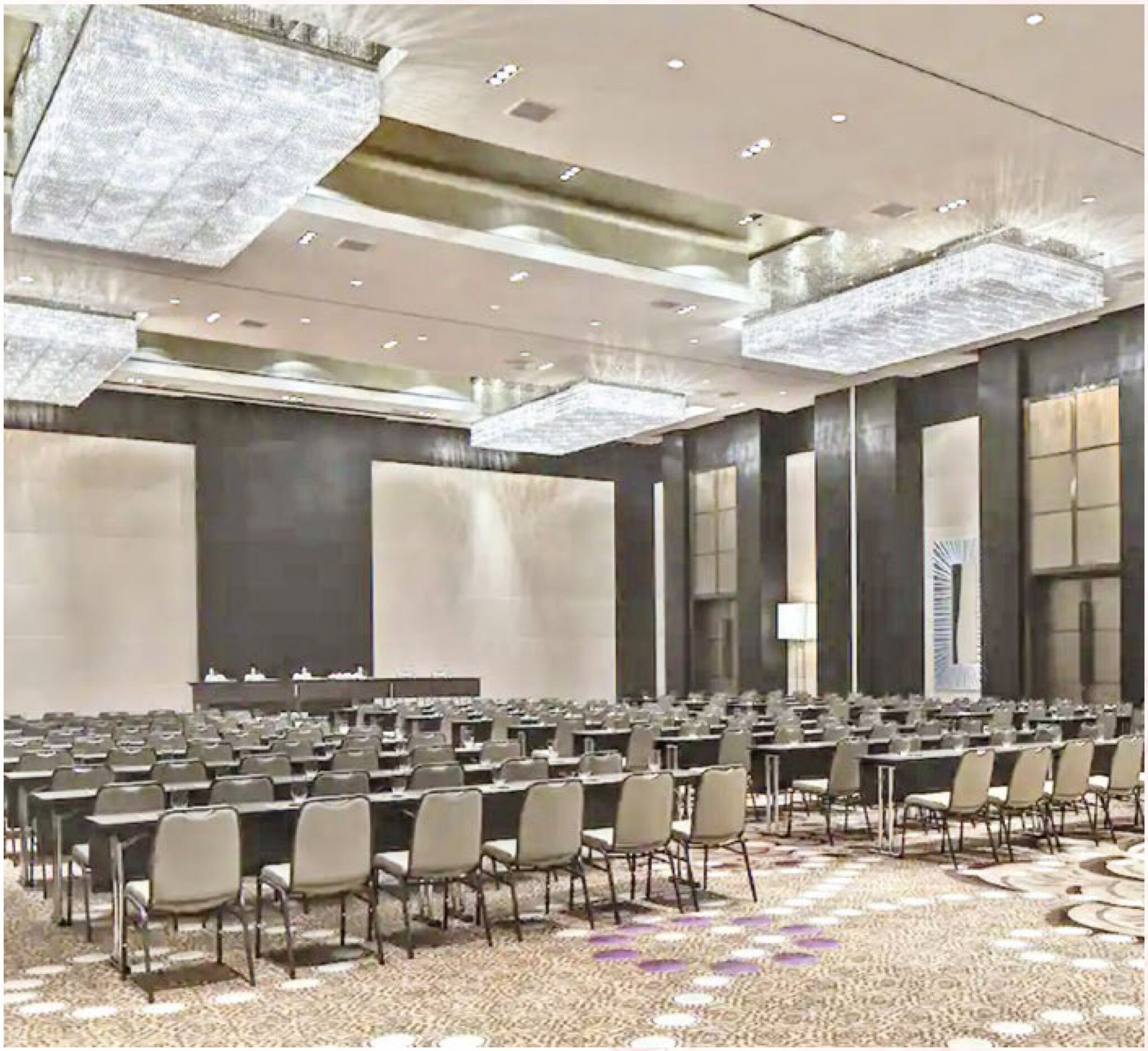
THE WESTIN GOA

At The Westin Goa, every moment captivates the senses and creates lasting memories. Boasting four event rooms and a total event space of 910 sqm, it's the ideal venue for grand events to intimate affairs. The Kashti Ballroom can accommodate up to 400 guests featuring expansive, flexible spaces, it includes two breakout rooms, a pre-function area, and doors that open onto sprawling lawns. The lawns, complete with a shaded space and an exclusive island bar, offer the perfect setting for enjoying a breezy day or an elegant evening. For more intimate gatherings, Chapora provides a charming space with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking spectacular landscaped greens. With two breakout rooms, it's perfectly suited for smaller events. Exuding contemporary elegance, the Drift Upper Deck offers sweeping views and glimmering lights, setting the stage for a sophisticated affair. The hotel adds exclusivity to any celebration, truly elevating the experience. **thewestingoa.com**

HYDERABAD

THE WESTIN HYDERABAD MINDSPACE

Located in the heart of Raheja Mindspace IT Park, the Westin Hyderabad Mindspace is a luxurious hotel that caters to both business and leisure travellers. It offers an expansive array of event spaces totalling 1996 sqm, including 13 versatile rooms and four breakout areas. The exquisite Westin Ballroom, adorned with sophisticated decor and equipped with state-of-the-art technology and safety features, serves as an ideal venue for conferences and grand wedding celebrations. For outdoor gatherings, guests can opt for the scenic rooftop venue or the sprawling lawn. Smaller conference rooms are available for private business events and VIP meetings, boasting socially conscious amenities. The hotel's dedicated team of event coordinators ensures meticulous planning for weddings and business events, offering tailored experiences down to the finest details. Customised catering by the hotel's skilled culinary team further enhances the experience, promising a memorable occasion for all guests. **westinhyderabadmindspace.com**



PARK HYATT HYDERABAD

Park Hyatt Hyderabad epitomises luxury and grandeur, making it the premier destination for both meetings and social events. The 600 sqm pillarless ballroom can be divided into three soundproof sections, featuring a soaring ceiling adorned with elegant chandeliers. It includes an exclusive pre-function area, a built-in bar, a cloakroom, and an adjacent terrace ideal for pre-event cocktails. Additionally, The Manor, India's first residential-style, multi-functional event facility, located on the lower lobby level, offers six individually styled event rooms. Combining opulent decor with cutting-edge audiovisual technology, exceptional cuisine, and a dedicated team of hosts and chefs, The Manor provides a sophisticated venue for exclusive business and social gatherings.

Expert planners oversee every detail, from gourmet cuisine to exquisite floral arrangements, ensuring personalized service tailored to each event. All menus are thoughtfully curated, showcasing the freshest seasonal ingredients. **parkhyatthyderabad.com**

ITC KOHENUR - A LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL, HYDERABAD

ITC Kohenur offers expansive and flexible conference and banquet spaces, facilitating effortless customisation. Some areas seamlessly extend into open-air courtyards and spacious pre-function areas. Dedicated teams meticulously manage decor, cuisine, audio-visual equipment, and the smallest details, enhancing the experience of every event. The Deccan Stateroom stands is one of the city's largest pillarless halls, which can be divided into two separate halls. The Pearl Deck and Golconda Greens are highly coveted venues for parties and celebrations with the meeting rooms ensuring privacy, efficiency, and comprehensive business services. Each event receives bespoke attention, with tailored decor, cuisine, entertainment, and facilities to meet the host's exact specifications. A separate entrance dedicated to banquets adds convenience for both hosts and guests. Additionally, the hotel promotes sustainability with its planet-positive Green Banquets, featuring organic, locally sourced food and maximizing the use of natural daylight, among other eco-friendly practices. **itchotels.com/itckohenur**

MUMBAI

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL MUMBAI

Perched above Mumbai's upscale commercial hub, Four Seasons Hotel Mumbai blends chic modern style with an intimate boutique atmosphere and sweeping sea views. The hotel's event spaces evoke the ambience of a luxurious private residence nestled in the city's upscale neighbourhood. Guests indulge in world-class cuisine, impeccable service, and exclusive venues, including sophisticated ballrooms. A dedicated team is on hand to bring unique visions to fruition. The hotel boasts a total event space of 1356 sqm, featuring its largest ballroom spanning 325 sqm with a banquet capacity for up to 500 guests. This distinctive venue for meetings and weddings harmonizes upscale modernity with boutique-style intimacy within a 34-storey glass tower inspired by the ancient Hindu architectural principles of Vastu. Whether celebrating with friends, colleagues, or family, guests revel in versatile spaces that blend innovation with tradition, promising unforgettable experiences. **fourseasons.com/mumbai**

THE OBEROI, MUMBAI

Experience personalised and unforgettable events at The Oberoi, Mumbai, where every occasion, whether a conference, board meeting, wedding, or celebration, is crafted to be unique. The hotel offers two function rooms featuring large windows with stunning views of the ocean and cityscape. These classically furnished spaces are bathed in natural light, providing an ideal setting for up to fifty guests. For corporate gatherings such as business meetings, seminars, and dinners, the function rooms are a superb choice. Experienced teams ensure seamless management of corporate events with attentive and discreet service. The extensive business centre includes board rooms and meeting rooms accommodating up to 20 people, equipped with all necessary amenities. Additional services such as secretarial support, translation services, and couriers are available upon request. With its classic decor featuring wood panelling and leather chairs, the business centre ensures a professional yet comfortable atmosphere.**oberoihotels.com/hotels-in-mumbai**

THE TAJ MAHAL PALACE, MUMBAI

Experience the epitome of grandeur at The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai, where a curated array of versatile meeting and conference venues awaits. From client conclaves to grand conferences, discover spaces that blend functionality with finesse. Embrace a harmonious fusion of elegance, versatility, and unparalleled hospitality for any event or celebration. A dedicated team of experts guides every step, from selecting the perfect venue to delivering an impeccable experience. With an unwavering commitment to innovation and personalised elegance, expect meticulous planning, creative solutions, and a steadfast dedication to crafting seamless experiences. For generations, weddings at The Taj Mahal Palace have been synonymous with cherished memories, offering a journey of timeless romance. The devoted expert team ensure that every detail reflects dream celebrations from décor and curated menus to the minutest details. Here, one steps into a legacy of warm hospitality, where exquisite settings provide a flawless canvas for unforgettable occasions. **tajhotels.com** BTI

Hydration *harmony*

A curated selection of hydrating cosmetic products to optimise your skincare regime

WORDS ANITHYA BALACHANDRAN

Our skin is a mirror of our well-being, it plays an integral role in how we perceive ourselves. Establishing a meticulous skincare regimen is quite crucial for preserving its radiance and vitality. While our night-time routine focuses on restoration and rejuvenation during sleep, our morning ritual sets the stage for a day of exceptional skin health.

Achieving a healthy complexion demands unwavering dedication to a consistent skincare routine, supplemented by adequate hydration. By commencing our day with the proper skincare steps, we ensure our skin remains fortified and nourished throughout the day.

The Quintessential Hydration Routine

1. Cleansing

The journey to hydrated, radiant skin begins with cleansing. The key is to use a gentle, hydrating cleanser that thoroughly removes impurities without depriving the skin of its essential moisture. The choice of cleanser is pivotal, as it sets the foundation for the entire skincare regimen. Select a formulation that suits your skin type to avoid an excess of sebum or the opposite- which is stripping the skin of moisture.

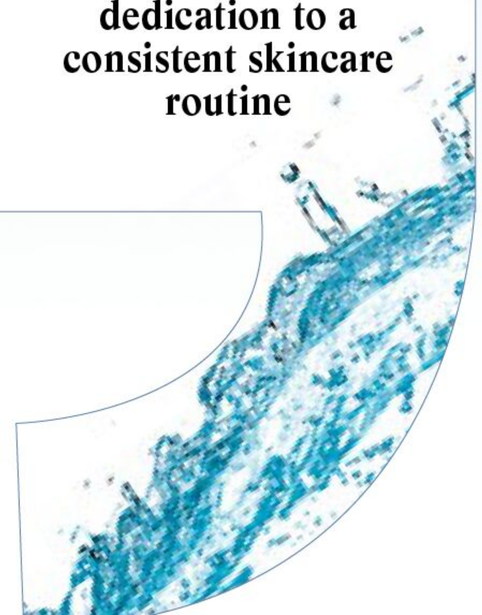
2. Vitamin C Serum

Following cleansing, treat your skin with a Vitamin C serum. Apply the serum while the skin remains slightly damp to amplify its effectiveness. These serums are crafted with powerful ingredients that address specific skin concerns. Application on damp skin facilitates deeper absorption, optimising the serum's benefits.

3. Toner

The application of a toner is instrumental in balancing the skin's pH and eliminating any residual impurities. Choose a toner that caters to your skin's particular needs, whether it be hydration, gentle exfoliation, or soothing inflammation. Avoid toners containing alcohol, as they can strip the skin of its moisture. Instead, opt for gentle, hydrating toners.

Achieving a healthy complexion demands unwavering dedication to a consistent skincare routine



4. Moisturiser

Moisturising is an indispensable step, regardless of skin type. Properly hydrated skin forms a resilient barrier, enabling it to effectively combat various skincare challenges. Scrutinise the ingredients when selecting a moisturiser to ensure it meets your skin's unique requirements.

5. Sunscreen

Conclude your morning skincare ritual with the application of a broad-spectrum SPF to protect your skin from UV damage. Omitting sunscreen diminishes the efficacy of your entire skincare routine. Apply sunscreen at least 15 minutes before sun exposure and reapply every 2 to 3 hours for optimal protection.

The Importance of Night-Time Hydration

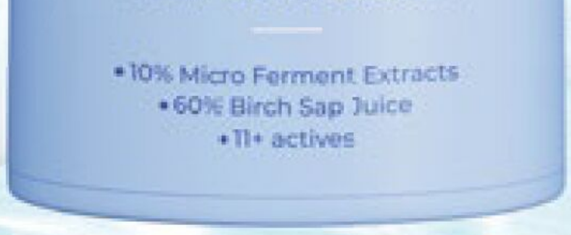
Hydration is equally crucial during the night-time. While we sleep, our skin loses moisture and can become dehydrated. Implementing a hydrating night routine helps counteract this moisture loss. Products such as night creams and serums with hyaluronic acid or glycerin provide essential hydration, ensuring the skin remains supple and rejuvenated.

However, skincare products alone cannot maintain skin hydration. Adequate water intake is imperative. Consuming sufficient water daily supports overall skin health, aiding in maintaining elasticity, reducing dryness, and promoting a natural glow.

D'YOU

HUSTLE SERUM

The revamped Hustle is a sophisticated solution for simplifying your skincare routine. Infused with over 11 potent active ingredients, this all-in-one serum targets acne, dehydration, premature ageing, pigmentation, and wrinkles, eliminating the need for multiple products. The updated design features a sleek, airless pump that reveals the remaining product, ensuring hassle-free usage. To effectively combat dark spots and hyperpigmentation, Hustle has been enhanced for a more refined application. It now has a smoother, softer texture and Hexapeptide-2 has replaced Arbutin.



UNKISSED SUNSCREEN

Unkissed is a cutting-edge serum-based sunscreen that is revolutionising sun protection. New-age sunscreen filters with SPF 50+ and PA++++ protection are delivered using patented capsule technology. Suspended in a nourishing serum base enriched with 14 soothing plant extracts, Unkissed provides a hydrating and cooling texture that defies the conventional sunscreen experience. Unkissed is an excellent substitute for sunscreen for people who have never been fond of it because it does not leave a sticky, white residue after application.

Estée Lauder

DAYWEAR ANTI-OXIDANT 72H-HYDRATION SORBET CREME SPF 15

Merging potent protection with enduring hydration, this ultra-light moisturizer exemplifies advanced skincare. The whipped, oil-free sorbet crème absorbs swiftly, imparting a barely-there sensation while ensuring 72 hours of moisture. Enriched with a proprietary complex of five antioxidants, including Vitamins C and E, it delivers comprehensive defense against daily environmental damage and pollution. The result is skin that boasts a delicate water-light texture and benefits from broad-spectrum SPF.

RE-NUTRIV ULTIMATE DIAMOND TRANSFORMATIVE ENERGY EYE CREME

This opulent yet lightweight crème expertly firms and brightens the eye area, significantly reducing puffiness and dark circles. Infused with the rare Black Diamond Truffle Extract, it imparts a revitalized and refreshed appearance. Complemented by a faceted massage wand, meticulously crafted from cooling golden alloy, it gently stimulates the skin.t

SKIN1004

MADAGASCAR CENTELLA AMPOULE

The serum, which contains extract from Centella Asiatica, is a treatment designed to counteract environmental stressors. With its ability to relieve skin irritations and replenish moisture, this calming ampoule leaves the complexion looking radiant. Its hydrating formula is ideal for all skin types, as it restores balance and addresses dryness caused by external factors.

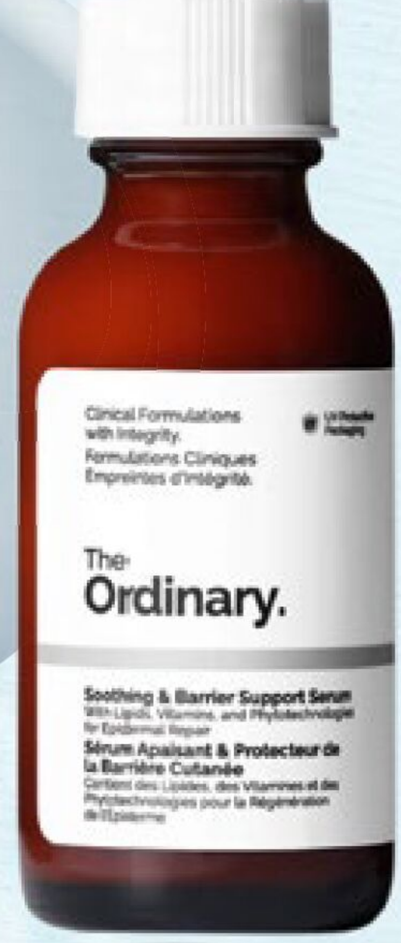
MADAGASCAR CENTELLA HYALU-CICA WATER-FIT SUN SERUM

This non-nano chemical sunscreen doubles as a hydrating sun protection serum, offering SPF50+ PA++++ for strong UV ray defence. Enriched with a unique blend of Centella Asiatica extract and hyaluronic acids, it deeply moisturizes, imparting a dewy, nourished appearance. Beyond merely providing sun protection, the SKIN1004 sun serum enhances skin hydration, enchancing the complexion in preparation for everyday skincare routines.

THE ORDINARY

THE ORDINARY SOOTHING & BARRIER SUPPORT SERUM

By strengthening and repairing the skin barrier and providing an amazing 86% increase in instant hydration, the Soothing & Barrier Support Serum is designed to soothe irritated skin. Fortified with a strong combination of lipids, vitamins, and cutting-edge phytotechnologies, it reduces redness and evens out uneven skin texture to encourage a more even complexion. This multi-active serum guarantees optimal skin health and long-lasting hydration, making it suitable for all skin types, even those with sensitive skin.



THE ORDINARY SQUALANE CLEANSER

The Squalane Cleanser is expertly designed to remove pollutants and makeup from the skin while gently cleansing it. This cleanser improves the skin's moisture barrier and leaves the skin feeling optimally hydrated. It is infused with plant-derived squalane, a well-known moisturising agent, and enhanced with lipophilic esters. It is perfect for daily use on all skin types because of its non-comedogenic and soap-free formulation, which ensures a smooth, soft finish.

FOXTALE

THE HYDRATING BODY WASH

With eight per cent Hydration Boosters, hyaluronic acid, ceramides, and centella extracts, the Hydrating Body Wash not only improves skin elasticity but also has anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. Preserving the skin's natural moisture balance, avoiding dryness, and enhancing general skin health all depend on using a hydrating body wash.

THE MULTIVITAMIN GLOW TONER

The Multi-Vitamin Glow Toner is a versatile hydrating mist that serves as both a toner and a makeup setting spray, enriched with Niacinamide, Provitamin B5, and Vitamin C to elevate skin radiance over time. It delivers hydration at the cellular level, replenishing deep moisture and forming a luminous film over skin providing a glow. With Multi-Layered Hydra Glow Film technology, this toner locks in makeup, ensuring a soft, dewy finish.

LANEIGE

LANEIGE WATER SLEEPING MASK EX

Incorporating this into one's regime will help achieve enhanced skin smoothness and radiance with the Laneige Water Sleeping Mask Ex. Created with a probiotics complex to strengthen the skin's natural defences, this advanced hydrating mask absorbs quickly, leaving a fresh, velvety texture. It serves as an effective overnight treatment, gently exfoliating to reveal a more refined complexion.

WATER BANK BLUE HYALURONIC CREAM

Designed for combination to oily skin the cream delivers luxurious hydration. Enriched with powerful hyaluronic acid, this gel-based moisturiser offers up to 48 hours of continuous hydration. Upon application, its creamy beads dissolve, imparting a soothing, refreshing sensation.

KLAIRS

KLAIRS SUPPLE PREPARATION FACIAL TONER

With a serum-like texture that absorbs fast for deep moisturizing, this re-energizing toner combines the hydrating properties of hyaluronic acid with the calming effects of licorice extract. Thoughtfully formulated to balance skin pH and promote overall skin health, it leaves a silky finish without any sticky residue and does not contain alcohol or parabens.

KLAIRS GENTLE BLACK DEEP CLEANSING OIL

The Klairs Black Bean Cleansing Oil is a multifaceted skincare solution designed to preserve skin moisture and elasticity. Formulated with black sesame oil, it hydrates while effectively regulating sebum production for balanced oil control. This purifying cleanser deeply cleanses pores and soothes irritated skin, strengthening the skin's protective barrier. Free from ethanol, silicone, and gluten, it ensures safe and gentle use. Key ingredients include black bean oil for oil control and black sesame oil for skin hydration.

CAUDALIE

CAUDALIE BEAUTY ELIXIR

Caudalie's Beauty Elixir is a highly regarded skincare mist that is well-known for its all-natural ingredients and numerous advantages. It effectively sets makeup, tightens pores, and improves the brightness of skin. Its blend of hydrating green grape, toning peppermint essential oil, precious rose essential oil, calming orange blossom water, and cooling lemon balm essential oil ensures a refreshed and luminous complexion, whether used to refresh during the day or to revitalize makeup in the evening.

CAUDALIE VINOPURE PURIFYING GEL CLEANSER

While reducing excess sebum, blackheads, and imperfections, the Caudalie Vinopure Purifying Gel Cleanser provides complete purification and pore tightening. Made up of 99% natural-origin ingredients, its gentle, non-drying formula contains natural salicylic acid, grapeseed polyphenols, organic essential oils, soothing grape water to reduce redness, and organic rose water to promote a healthy complexion. BTI

CHIC ACCENTS

Raising the fashion quotient through luxury accessories

WORDS KHURSHEED MISTRY

Accessorising is not merely about embellishing an outfit but enhancing and articulating one's fashion sensibilities. For both men and women in luxury fashion, choosing the right accessories reflects personal style, attention to detail, and a commitment to timeless elegance. By carefully selecting and integrating accessories into their wardrobes, individuals can elevate their fashion looks to new heights of sophistication and refinement. Join us as we showcase iconic fashion brands and accessories that will make you look like a million bucks!

Enhancing Style and Confidence

Accessorising allows individuals to express their personalities and tastes. In luxury fashion, where subtle details and craftsmanship are celebrated, accessories are powerful statements of personal style and confidence.

Elegance and Completion

Luxury fashion is often characterised by its sophistication and elegance. They complement the outfit and make a subtle yet significant impact on how the wearer is perceived. They provide the finishing touches that tie together different elements of an outfit, creating a harmonious ensemble.

Versatility

Luxury accessories are often designed to be versatile, and capable of transforming an outfit for various occasions. A well-chosen accessory can effortlessly transition an ensemble from day to evening wear, from casual to formal settings.

Making a Statement

Accessories make a bold statement without overshadowing the outfit itself. They can be conversation starters, signalling individuality and taste.

CHANEL

Chanel embodies a legacy of innovation, elegance, and empowerment for women. From its inception by Coco Chanel in 1909 to its continued evolution under new creative leadership, the brand remains an enduring symbol of luxury and style, shaping the landscape of fashion for decades to come. It advocates simplicity, comfort, and elegance with the designs emphasising classic lines, impeccable tailoring, and luxurious materials. The brand is renowned for its use of black and white colour schemes, as well as neutral tones, which enhance the timeless appeal of its creations. It is focused on sustainability, eco-friendly practices and supports initiatives for environmental stewardship.

The Chanel Metal, Lambskin and Calfskin bracelet in gold and black combines luxurious materials with meticulous craftsmanship, making it a standout accessory. Whether worn alone or paired, it is sure to elevate any ensemble with its unmistakable Chanel allure.

The 2023-24 Métiers d'art collection pays homage to the dynamic flair of British style, capturing the vibrant spirit of the sixties. Featuring striking electric red, the collection's sunglasses inject a daring element into the silhouette.

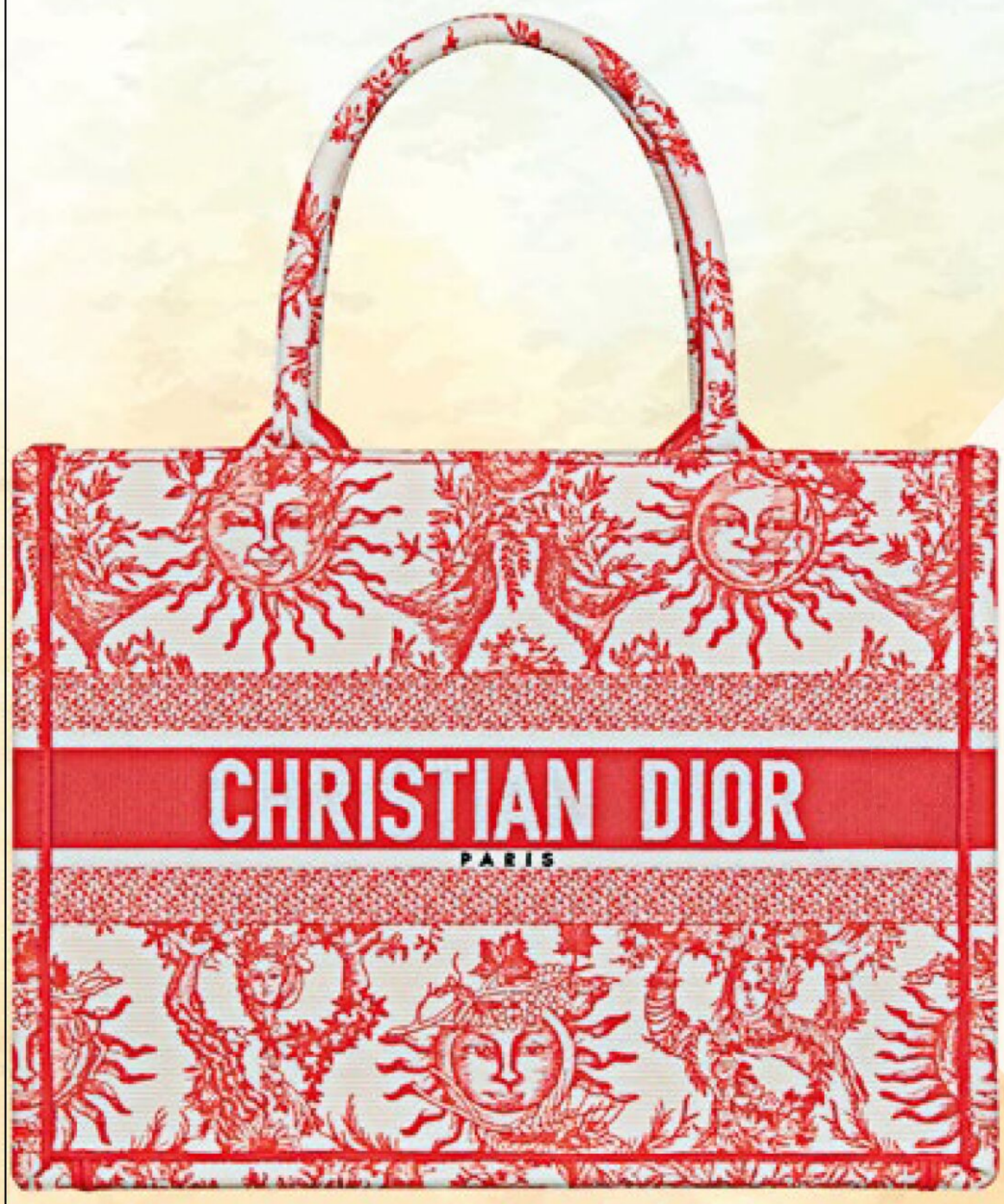
The watch from the Mademoiselle Privé Bouton collection is inspired by the iconic Chanel little black jacket, renowned for its braided sleeves and signature buttons. Tweed and quilted leather accentuate this timepiece, showcasing a unique blend of fashion and functionality.

DIOR

Christian Dior founded the brand in 1946 and rejuvenated Parisian fashion with his graceful and feminine designs after World War II. The brand's opulent and sophisticated style captivated prestigious clients, solidifying its standing in the fashion realm. Dior has maintained a commitment to meticulous craftsmanship and detail throughout its journey. Its Parisian ateliers continue to craft haute couture pieces that epitomise luxury and timeless allure. Today, Dior stands as a global leader in the fashion industry, with boutiques and flagship stores gracing major cities worldwide. Representing a legacy of over seven decades, Dior embodies a seamless blend of creativity, innovation, and enduring elegance.

Victoire de Castellane transforms the essence of Christian Dior's garden in Milly-la-Forêt into whimsical flowers. Each blossom is meticulously hand-lacquered in vibrant colours and adorned with diamonds, crafting an exceptional herbarium of botanical artistry.

Inspired by Dior's botanical passion, the Dway heeled slide pays vibrant homage with its black multicoloured Dior Herbarium motif. It features an array of wild plants and flowers, adorned with dragonflies and bees. The upper is embroidered with the distinctive Christian Dior Paris signature, while the square toe enhances its modern appeal.



The Dior Book Tote is crafted to accommodate everyday essentials and is adorned with intricate embroidery of the Toile de Jouy Soleil motif. This reinterpretation of a House icon combines suns, crescent moons, and florals symbolising the four seasons. The tote showcases the Christian Dior Paris signature on its front, exemplifying timeless flair.

CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN

In 1991, Christian Louboutin launched his inaugural Paris boutique, marking the beginning of his illustrious career. His shoes quickly became distinguished by their iconic red-lacquered soles, a defining feature that became synonymous with his brand. Throughout the 1990s and into the 2000s, the brand was popular among celebrities, fashion icons, and shoe enthusiasts worldwide. His striking seamlessly blends elements of artistry and meticulous craftsmanship. Over time, Louboutin expanded his offerings to encompass handbags, cosmetics and accessories. Christian Louboutin's journey to success epitomises the fusion of creativity, craftsmanship, and entrepreneurial drive, firmly establishing him as an esteemed figure in the fashion industry.

The Sandaloo, a platform sandal is designed with an open toe, a slender ankle strap, and is elevated by a 130 mm square heel. It is meticulously crafted from crepe satin in a serene aftersun hue, reminiscent of a sunset. Hand-placed strass embellishes the platform sole, adding a touch of elegance.

The versatile Biloumoon handbag, compact and adaptable, boasts distinctive geometric contours. Crafted from supple calf leather in a vibrant Hibiscus orange, this accessory exudes creativity. Its rounded silhouette pays homage to the Maison's logo, blending style with functionality.

The Loubi54 clutch, an iconic creation, showcases its refined silhouette with clean, sophisticated lines. Adorned with the Queenie Strass CL monogram on the front, it is meticulously crafted from black crêpe satin. Versatile in design, it includes a removable 114 cm chain strap with leather reinforcement, to carry it by hand or over the shoulder.

ETRO

Founded by Gimmo Etro, the brand quickly gained recognition for its impeccable craftsmanship and sophisticated prints. In 1981, Gerolamo Etro introduced the Paisley pattern, which has since evolved into the fashion house's signature design. While the Paisley motif stands as Etro's iconic symbol, the brand's logo is a majestic Pegasus, the winged horse that is frequently embellished on outerwear, bags, and belts. Etro, a family-owned enterprise, continues to embody its distinctive values; curiosity, artistry, innovation, travel, nature, sustainability, exploration, and community. The brand has evolved into a global icon celebrated for its unique prints, luxurious fabrics, and bohemian flair.

This backpack is crafted from iconic paisley jacquard fabric, accentuated by luxurious leather details. The accessory features an embroidered Pegaso symbol on the front and an embossed Etro logo on the back. Inside, it boasts a striped fabric lining for a stylish and functional finish.

This 100 per cent silk pocket square features a decorative floral Paisley foliage print. It measures 16.93 x 16.93 inches and is expertly crafted in Italy.

The suede lace-up shoes feature a platform sole and are crafted with an upper made from 80 per cent leather and 20 per cent elastodiene. The lining is made from calfskin; the sole is 100 per cent elastodiene. They are fastened with cotton laces and expertly made in Spain.

GIORGIO ARMANI

Giorgio Armani is celebrated for his elegant and minimalist style that revolutionized the fashion industry. He partnered with Sergio Galeotti in the early 1970s to establish his fashion label, Armani. The designs were distinguished by their clean lines, luxurious fabrics, and impeccable tailoring. Giorgio pioneered a relaxed, unstructured silhouette that contrasted sharply with structured styles, making his garments both comfortable and sophisticated. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the brand expanded to include accessories, eyewear, fragrances, and home furnishings. This brand continues to set trends and uphold its reputation for timeless elegance, making Giorgio Armani a true icon in the world of fashion and style.

The irregular-shaped sunglasses are made from bio-acetate and stand out with their bold construction and voluminous design. They feature gradient lenses paired with full-colour frames, accentuated by a Giorgio Armani logo laser-cut onto the temples.

The belt in weave-print leather is adorned with a woven print design. It showcases a metal buckle shaped in the GA logo style, crafted from 100 per cent bovine leather. The belt includes an adjustable snap closure and measures 2.4 cm in width. It combines elegance with Italian craftsmanship.

The suit carrier blends durable, sustainable nylon with pebbled leather accents. It includes two practical handles and a removable, adjustable webbing shoulder strap for convenience. This essential item also boasts an external zip pocket adorned with a coordinating pebbled leather insert.

GUCCI

Founded by Guccio Gucci in 1921, Gucci has evolved from a humble shop on a side street in Florence to a global symbol of Italian craftsmanship, visionary creativity, and innovative design. The brand's iconic motifs like the horsebit and interlocking G logo embody its roots in luxury and meticulous craftsmanship. Throughout the decades, Gucci's history has not only reflected but also shaped fashion and culture, leaving an enduring mark on the 20th and 21st centuries. Today, Gucci stands as one of the world's most renowned luxury brands, cherished for its heritage, craftsmanship, and distinctive style that captivates a diverse global audience.

Inspired by the iconic piston lock of the Jackie 1961 handbag, this men's bracelet features this archival element on a leather strap. Available in both leather and GG Supreme canvas variations, this style pays homage to classic design elements with a contemporary twist.

The watch showcases a slim multi-layer case and a five-link steel bracelet, complemented by dark blue glass featuring an Interlocking G motif. It includes anti-reflective sapphire with a blue colour treatment and is Swiss-made.

Crafted in Italy, this spacious duffle bag in white GG Supreme Tender combines versatility with functionality. It features white leather trim, silver-toned hardware, and accents of green and red web detailing. The interior is lined with nylon and includes one zip pocket, an adjustable canvas shoulder strap, and a zip closure for added security and convenience. BTI

GLAMOUR OASIS

Discover unparalleled luxury and exceptional savings at Outletcity Metzingen

WORDS ANITHYA BALACHANDRAN

Retail therapy isn't just about shopping—it's a personal journey of self-care and style exploration. It's a deliberate pursuit of curated finds that go beyond mere acquisition, offering moments of statement, reflecting individual taste and enhancing emotional well-being. This practice underscores the belief that fashion isn't just about what you wear; it's about how it makes you feel. Outletcity Metzingen is an ideal sanctuary for indulging in retail therapy.

Nestled in the heart of Baden-Württemberg, the city of Metzingen offers an unparalleled shopping experience year-round. Renowned as Europe's largest outlet, this retail sanctuary entices fashion aficionados and discerning shoppers with exciting offers, transforming every visit into a treasure hunt of exquisite finds.

The enchantment of Outletcity Metzingen transcends its remarkable retail offers, presenting an extensive array of over 170 premium and luxury brands in flagship outlet stores. Whether one seeks the latest fashion trends or timeless classics, this expansive retail utopia caters to every sartorial desire. Enhancing its prestige, Outletcity Metzingen boasts the world's largest BOSS Outlet store, encompassing over 5,000 sqm—a fitting homage to Hugo Boss, who opened his company right here in Metzingen.

Convenience reigns supreme at Outletcity Metzingen, where tax-free shopping opportunities offer additional savings. Strategically positioned just 30 minutes from Stuttgart and a mere two-hour drive from Zurich, Frankfurt, and Munich, it is an easily accessible destination for international visitors.

Beyond its retail allure, Metzingen itself is a picturesque town that harmoniously blends historical charm with contemporary, award-winning architecture. Set within a biosphere reserve, it offers a plethora of nature and historical sites as well. The gastronomic landscape of Outletcity Metzingen is equally diverse and sophisticated, featuring Asian fusion cuisine at Champa, authentic Italian fare at L'Osteria, and hearty German dishes at Almresi. For those seeking a quick interlude, Starbucks serves first-class coffee specialities, while the Bollicine&Co. Champagne Bar offers an exhilarating selection of sparkling wines and Italian delicacies.

Where Premium Meets Exceptional

Outletcity Metzingen prides itself on offering exceptional services to ensure a memorable visit for every guest. Individual visitors can enjoy complimentary wifi, tax-free shopping with direct refunds at the Welcome Centre, and a convenient Shopping Shuttle service from Stuttgart. The city also caters to families with childcare services at the "Kid's Camp". For international visitors, the multilingual staff at the Welcome Center and the availability of information in various languages enhance the accessibility and comfort of the shopping experience. Additional amenities include luggage storage, lockers, power banks, baby strollers, and parking garages equipped with electric vehicle charging stations.

An amalgamation of style and comfort - The Moxy Outletcity Metzingen

Moxy Outletcity Metzingen resides in the heart of the Outletcity, inviting fashion enthusiasts, adventurers, and those in search of vibrant experiences. With 200 meticulously designed rooms, each adorned with fashion-themed details, Moxy Outletcity Metzingen ensures a trendy and comfortable atmosphere. The Moxy Bar operates 24/7, offering creative drinks and delectable snacks to cater to guests' every need. Regularly hosted events add a touch of excitement to every stay.

The hotel's expansive lounge acts as a bustling hub for relaxation and recreation, providing board games and table soccer for leisure. A modern gym equipped with top-tier equipment caters to fitness enthusiasts.

Textile history: The Museum

A small city with just 23,000 inhabitants has garnered international acclaim in the fashion world, a feat few cities can boast. Outletcity draws fashion enthusiasts from around the globe with its array of premium and luxury brands. The story of its success is showcased at 'The Museum', where visitors can explore and experience the intertwined history of Outletcity and the city itself. The museum, located in a building constructed in 1877 that later became the Hugo Boss factory, presents the evolution of the city and its famed fashion destination through interactive, multi-sensory exhibits. This historic site offers deep insights into the city's transformation and the enduring legacy of Outletcity. BTI

Outletcity Metzingen prides itself on offering exceptional services to ensure a memorable visit

The Art of Arrival

Redefining the Welcome Experience in Luxury Hotels

KATRIN HERZ
MULTI-PROPERTY GENERAL MANAGER,
THE ABU DHABI EDITION

In the realm of luxury hospitality, the welcome experience sets the tone for a guest's entire stay. It's more than just a formality; it's an art form meticulously designed to captivate, enchant, and exceed expectations. The notion of arrival extends far beyond physical entry into a hotel; it encompasses the emotional journey from anticipation to satisfaction. We spare no expense to ensure that the initial encounter leaves an indelible mark. From the moment a guest steps foot onto the property, every detail is orchestrated to evoke a sense of wonder and delight. The architecture, landscaping, and ambience conspire to create a sensory symphony. Personalisation lies at the heart of the modern welcome experience. Luxury hotels recognise that each guest is unique, with distinct preferences and desires. By leveraging technology and data analytics, hotels can anticipate these preferences and tailor the arrival experience accordingly. From pre-arrival surveys to personalised greetings on arrival, every interaction is an opportunity for us to show our attention to details and hospitality.

The human touch remains indispensable in the art of arrival. While technology can enhance efficiency and personalisation, it's the warmth and sincerity of human interaction that truly elevates the experience. A genuine smile, a warm handshake, or a personalised welcome note can create a connection that transcends the transactional nature of hospitality.

Luxury hotels are reimagining traditional notions of arrival to offer guests a seamless and immersive experience. Mobile check-in and keyless entry systems allow guests to bypass the front desk and proceed directly to their rooms, minimizing wait times and enhancing convenience. Meanwhile, innovative design concepts such as lobby-less hotels blur the boundaries between public and private spaces, fostering a sense of intimacy and exclusivity.

The sensory dimension of arrival cannot be overlooked. Luxury hotels understand the power of scent, sound, and texture in shaping the guest experience. Signature fragrances waft through the air, soothing melodies fill the space, and sumptuous fabrics invite tactile exploration. These sensory elements work in harmony to create a multisensory tableau that engages guests on a visceral level.

Incorporating locally sourced products and services into the welcome experience not only enriches the guest experience but also fosters a sense of community and sustainability. It infuses the hotel's aesthetic with a sense of place, transforming lobbies, guest rooms, and public spaces into galleries showcasing the region's creative talent.

Personalisation lies at the heart of the modern welcome experience

Here at The Abu Dhabi Edition, we have been at the forefront of partnering with local Emirati talents, such as Latifa Saeed, who designed the signature braided chairs in our lobby, and Hajar Al Tenaiji, who designed our Christmas tree last year. Our collaborations extend into the culinary realm as well; we teamed up with Emirati Chef Sheika Hesa Al Khalifa to craft a special iftar menu that featured traditional Emirati dishes, receiving acclaim from both local and international guests. These partnerships underscore our dedication to showcasing local talent and immersing our guests in the vibrant local art and culinary scenes.

Through strategic collaborations with local brands, luxury hotels can differentiate themselves in a crowded marketplace while fostering meaningful connections with guests and the community at large. By infusing the arrival experience with authenticity, cultural relevance, and sustainability, hotels can create lasting impressions that resonate long after guests have checked out, solidifying their position as purveyors of extraordinary experiences.

The art of arrival is a dynamic and evolving discipline, shaped by shifting consumer preferences, technological advancements, and societal trends. As luxury hotels navigate this evolving landscape, they remain committed to delivering unparalleled experiences that resonate on a deeply emotional level. Whether it's through personalised service, innovative design, or immersive experiences, the art of arrival continues to redefine the boundaries of luxury hospitality. BTI

FIG LIVING

LIFO FLOOR LAMP

Fig Living seamlessly blends European and Indian aesthetics with the tranquil Japandi spirit in its latest lighting decor collection. This collection features lighting options that offer a soft, diffused glow through frosted glass or fabric shades, creating a cozy and calming atmosphere. Embracing the harmonious fusion of Japanese wabi-sabi and Scandinavian hygge, Fig Living prioritises sustainability with energy-efficient LED solutions that align with Japandi's environmental consciousness. Highlights include the versatile Lifo Floor Lamp, featuring an origami-inspired design, knock-down tripod stand, and high-quality linen material, offering warm light for a cosy evening and making an ideal gift for decor enthusiasts. **figliving.com**

Gastronomic Grandeur

The Evolution of fine dining experiences in luxury hotel restaurants

DEEPPREET BINDRA
GENERAL MANAGER - THE WESTIN HYDERABAD MINDSPACE

The landscape of fine dining within luxury hotels has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years with establishments elevating their culinary offerings, compelling gourmet restaurants to raise their standards to surpass the competition and excellence now expected. This evolution reflects a growing sophistication among discerning diners and a recognition by hoteliers that exceptional cuisine is a powerful differentiator in a competitive market. Today's luxury hotel restaurants are destinations in their own right, drawing both guests and locals with the promise of unforgettable gastronomic experiences.

One of the most striking changes has been the emphasis on locality and authenticity. Along with the popularity of international cuisine, there's a growing trend towards regional specialities and ingredients. This provides guests with a genuine taste of their destination, supports local producers and food traditions.

Central to this evolution is the relentless pursuit of culinary innovation and craftsmanship. Renowned chefs and culinary teams experiment with new techniques, presentations and fusion dishes, creating visually stunning meals, that appeal to the eyes and the palate. This artistic approach extends to restaurants carefully crafting immersive atmospheres to enhance the culinary journey.

Luxury hotels maintain their edge by investing in cutting-edge kitchen facilities and forming themed collaborations with celebrity chefs and culinary innovators. This offers unique hotel restaurant opportunities, attracting visitors and locals seeking novel dining experiences.

A significant recent trend has been the emphasis on sustainability and local sourcing. Luxury hotel kitchens increasingly prioritise using locally produced, seasonal ingredients to create delectable and environment-friendly dishes. The commitment to sustainability enhances food quality and allows guests to connect with local culture and culinary heritage.

Today's guests crave a multisensory experience that engages all their senses. Luxury hotel restaurants respond by designing innovative dining environments, themed food festivals, open kitchens, and incorporating elements like immersive decor, interactive presentations, and personalised service to create unforgettable culinary experiences.

> **One of the most exciting developments in fine dining is the focus on wellness-based eating**

One of the most exciting developments in fine dining is the focus on wellness-based eating. As health and wellness become more important to consumers, luxury hotels are integrating these concepts into their culinary offerings. The Westin Hyderabad Mindspace exemplifies this trend by offering a wellness-focused dining experience, to allow guests to maintain their health and well-being, including the Westin Sleep Well Menu, a curated selection of sleep-enhancing superfoods available through in-room dining.

Mixology has been elevated to an art form, with bartenders crafting bespoke cocktails that rival the complexity and creativity of the dishes. Many hotel bars now offer unique tasting experiences, pairing cocktails with small plates to create a complete sensory journey.

Personalisation has become a key differentiator - from customised tasting menus to specific dietary requirements with gourmet flair, hotels are going to great lengths to ensure that culinary experiences are tailored to individual preferences and needs.

As we look to the future, it is clear that the evolution of fine dining in luxury hotels will continue apace. The challenge for establishments will be to stay ahead of ever-changing expectations while maintaining the timeless qualities of exceptional cuisine and impeccable service.

In this new era of hotel dining, the meal is no longer just a prelude to a good night's sleep – it has become a journey of the senses that lingers in the memory long after the last plate has been cleared. BTI

Business Traveller INDIA

The Report

77

Tried, Tested, Tasted.

TRIED AND TESTED RESTAURANTS

Alba Terrace at The Abu Dhabi Edition	78
Vida Rica Restaurant at Mandarin Oriental, Macau	79
Hoi An at Shangri-La Dubai	80
Kangan at The Westin Hyderabad Mindspace	81

Alba Terrace at The Abu Dhabi Edition

Experience luxury living at The Abu Dhabi Edition, a boutique hotel crafted to delight the senses to extraordinary heights. Nestled downtown, it combines a personalised and inspired setting, adjacent to a picturesque marina.

Lush green foliage, blue pools of shimmering water and plush wooden furniture beckons you to relax and indulge at Alba Terrace, a Mediterranean haven. This idyllic setting is the backdrop for a perfect escape, where every detail is designed to create unforgettable memories.

Begin your journey at Alba Terrace, where the aroma of wood-fired pizza fills the air. Here, one can savour continental dishes and sip on signature Spritz drinks that add to the experience.

Day seamlessly transitions into the night offering an ideal destination for relaxation and enjoyment. Whether one prefers a cosy indoor ambience or dining, each moment exceeds expectations. From organic coffee and biodynamic wines to light lunches and delectable sharing plates, every culinary choice is a celebration of flavour and sophistication.

I embarked on a culinary adventure at the highly recommended Alba Terrace, starting with a delightful plate of Calamari. The journey continued with a healthy

and flavourful pan-seared Sea Bass accompanied by creamy mashed potatoes with crispy shallots and tender broccoli drizzled with lemon dressing. The simplicity of this delectable meal was unparalleled. The glass of red wine enhanced the flavours of the meal to perfection. Satiated yet longing to end on a high note, I opted for a freshly brewed espresso, a fitting finale to a memorable dining experience.

At Alba Terrace, luxury transcends expectations and each moment is a testament to the art of luxurious living.

VERDICT A memorable dining experience, that was nothing short of pure bliss.

Ravi Lalwani

HOURS
Open Daily
Lunch 12.30pm – 4.00pm
Dinner 6.00pm – 11.00pm

PRICE
Approximately 380 AED per person

CONTACT
marriott.com

@abudhabiedition

At Alba Terrace, luxury transcends expectations and each moment is a testament to the art of luxurious living.

Vida Rica Restaurant at Mandarin Oriental, Macau

HOURS
Breakfast- 7am – 10:30am
Lunch – 12.00 noon - 3pm
Dinner – 6pm - 10pm (Tuesday - Saturday)

PRICE
Approximately 1519 MOP (Macau Patacas) per person

CONTACT
mandarinoriental.com

@mo_macau

> With a focus on enhancing natural flavours, each dish is crafted to exhilarate the palate with its distinctive flair.

Vida Rica Restaurant ensconced within Mandarin Oriental, Macau, offers an exquisitely designed dining experience with cosy seating and expansive vistas of the South China Sea and Nam Van Lake, making it an ideal spot for breakfast, business lunches, or intimate dinners. Known for its Oriental flavours and artisanal dim sum, the restaurant's seasonal menu harmoniously blends Western and Portuguese influences. With a focus on enhancing natural flavours, each dish is crafted to exhilarate the palate with its distinctive flair. Under the guidance of Executive Chef Giulioantonio and Chinese Chef de Cuisine Hans He, the culinary team celebrates the city's vibrant gastronomy and source ingredients ethically and with meticulous care.

I embarked on a tantalising seafood journey that set the tone for an unforgettable meal. Starting with a delightful seafood appetiser—Shrimp and Caviar featuring Caledonian Blue Shrimp Carpaccio, Avocado, and smoked Herring Caviar, was a delectable introduction to the evening. The main course, Steamed Macau Sole, was a standout—expertly prepared with spring onions, yellow bell pepper, preserved black bean, and soy sauce. Accompanied by a glass of red wine and sautéed asparagus, the meal was a testament to culinary mastery. A delightful shot of espresso provided the perfect conclusion to a memorable dining experience.

VERDICT An exemplary dining destination offering delicious cuisine, an elevated dining experience, breathtaking views, and attentive service.

Ravi Lalwani

Hoi An at Shangri-La Dubai

Hoi An at Shangri-La Dubai epitomises the essence of Vietnam infused with a French twist. Embodying an unparalleled Vietnamese food adventure, this restaurant offers memorable immersive experiences. The kitchen crafts a symphony of authentic tastes that defines the textures of Vietnamese cuisine. Additionally, Hoi An offers an extensive menu featuring unique experiences such as the Khai Vi Brunch, featuring a curated selection of sharing platters that blend authentic Vietnamese flavours complemented by unlimited soft beverages. The exquisite Mud Crab Menu explores signature dishes expertly crafted to delight the palate with a symphony of flavours.

I had eagerly anticipated dining at Hoi An based on its stellar reputation, and I was not disappointed. The chef began my culinary journey with a customised appetiser - a refreshing Seafood Mango Salad featuring grilled seafood adorned with vibrant Asian herbs and sesame dressing; a burst of flavours that truly pleased my palate. For my main course, I opted for the renowned Cá Nướng Gói Lá Sen, or Lotus-baked Seabass, recommended by the knowledgeable staff after I expressed a fondness for Seabass. The dish was a masterpiece, the seabass cooked to perfection with a Kumquat compote, mint, and coriander, creating a harmonious blend of simple yet exquisite flavours. Paired with a glass of red wine, it was a dining experience to remember. By the end of my meal, feeling satisfied, I concluded with a smooth espresso.

VERDICT Hoi An has indeed lived up to its acclaim, offering not just a meal, but a culinary journey of exceptional tastes and flavours.

Ravi Lalwani

I had eagerly anticipated dining at Hoi An based on its stellar reputation, and I was not disappointed.

HOURS
Daily from 7pm – 11pm

PRICE
Approximately AED 365 per person

CONTACT
hoiandubai.com

@shangrila_dubai

Kangan at The Westin Hyderabad Mindspace

Kangan, an esteemed and award-winning Indian restaurant at The Westin Hyderabad Mindspace, offers an opulent dining affair immersed in the rich tapestry of regional flavours. The Urdu phrase "Ith-mi-naan Se" ("Made with a lot of patience") perfectly encapsulates the meticulous approach to culinary artistry, where the essence of Hyderabadi and Awadhi cuisine lies in slow-cooked perfection. Each dish at Kangan is a masterpiece, meticulously crafted using traditional culinary techniques to ensure authenticity and unparalleled taste.

My dining experience began with a delightful Kebab Platter featuring grilled and marinated chicken, lamb, and fish. The Peshwari murgh, shahi seekh kebab, and tawa macchli were expertly grilled to perfection, and each succulent bite melted in the mouth.

The main course featured their celebrated Dal Kangan, a sumptuous blend of slow-cooked black lentils in tomato cream and white butter, so sinful and indulgent that I couldn't resist a second helping! Equally impressive was the Kacchi Gosht ki Biryani, where tender marinated lamb and aromatic spices were layered with perfectly cooked basmati rice. This was complemented exquisitely by a glass of beer, rounding out a flawless meal.

To conclude this indulgence, I savoured their creamy Kulfi Falooda, a decadent dessert comprising frozen milk, vermicelli, and basil seeds adding the right sweet note to a memorable dining experience at Kangan.

VERDICT A sophisticated culinary journey inspired by the opulent recipes from the royal kitchens of Nawabs and Nizams, intertwined with delicacies from the Northwest Frontier region.

Ravi Lalwani

Each dish at Kangan is a masterpiece, crafted with precision using traditional culinary techniques

HOURS
Monday - Sunday from 7pm – 11pm

PRICE
Approximately INR 4440

CONTACT
kanganwestinhyderabad.com

@westinhyderabad

THE BIG PICTURE

Serenity in Blue

The Blue Mosque in Istanbul, officially known as the Sultan Ahmed Mosque, is a historic imperial mosque from the Ottoman era, constructed between 1609 and 1617 during the reign of Ahmed I. It continues to function as a mosque today. Anithya, who had long dreamed of visiting Istanbul, shares her experience: "Istanbul had been on my bucket list for years. When I finally stood before the Blue Mosque in the chilly February weather, a tear of joy rolled down my cheek. The sheer beauty of its architecture and the profound history it embodies truly capture the essence of human achievement. I captured this frame with my humble OnePlus 7."

água

POOL BAR & CAFÉ

Sky dining with a taste of Italy

Marine hues with spectacular views, breezy patios with pool decks and byzantine blues with aqua greens welcome you to the perfect spot to sit back and relax. This gorgeous al-fresco space overlooking the infinity pool with the famed Chapora fort and sparkling river nestled at a distance offers a blend of fun, frolic and food.

The menu with curations of modern Italian selections offer crusty crostinis, creamy pastas and risottos, fresh pizzas, juicy burgers, refreshing salads and delectable desserts. Perched at the top with a gorgeous view of the bay, you can enjoy a day in the sun or simply watch the day slip into dusk and nightfall.

Reserve your table now.

Vagator Beach Road, Goa I To book your experience : +91 832 674 9800
jwmarriottgoavagator.com

A Unit of Competent Group of Companies

CATHAY PACIFIC
MOVE BEYOND

CONNECTING TO THE GREATER BAY AREA WITH FLIGHT AND FERRY

Travel seamlessly to the cities of Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Dongguan, and more with Cathay Pacific's air-plus-ferry services.

Scan the QR code to know more