DISCOVER INDIA

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GREAT INDIAN WEDDINGS

Get Behind The Scenes & Veils Across Cultures

Most Romantic Tables For Two • Ghotul Co-ed Living • Sephi Bergerson
Spas With Natural Touch • Street Food Re-jigged • Jharkhand In Focus

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THE SERAI, JAISALMER, RAJASTHAN

The vast trackless desert was bewitching as it rippled into a horizon bloodied by the sun's warm parting. We sat under a colourful canopy, leaned back against plump embroidered cushions and felt like potentates of an unknown fiefdom.

Sundowners on the dunes, organised by The Serai, Jaisalmer, a Relais & Chateaux outpost close to the magical medieval city of Jaisalmer, were a delectable affair. The array of eats vied with the views that unscrolled in front of us of unending expanses of sand and heaving dunes. The two bedecked camels that we had ridden earlier rested on their haunches, proud profiles etched against the fading light of the sun. The cameleers in local garb added dollops of colour to the dun-coloured landscape. More surprises awaited us at The Serai, set on a hundred acres of private indigenous desert scrub. Inspired by the royal caravan sites of ancient Rajputana, The Serai is a complex of deluxe tents with charming tents done up as a reception area, a dining area, and a garden-enclosed spa with the swimming pool (reminiscent of the stepwells of yore) as a stunning centrepiece.

As dusk fell on the desert, clamping it in a dusty embrace, we sat at a table for two with wraparound views of the wilderness beyond and of the dining tent and the glimmering swimming pool in front of us. This was true luxury in the wild...a royal Rajasthani repast served by soft-footed wait staff, clad in traditional garb, the molten silver moon, monochromatic desert and the mournful ballads of Manganiyar musicians...all of it strummed our senses.

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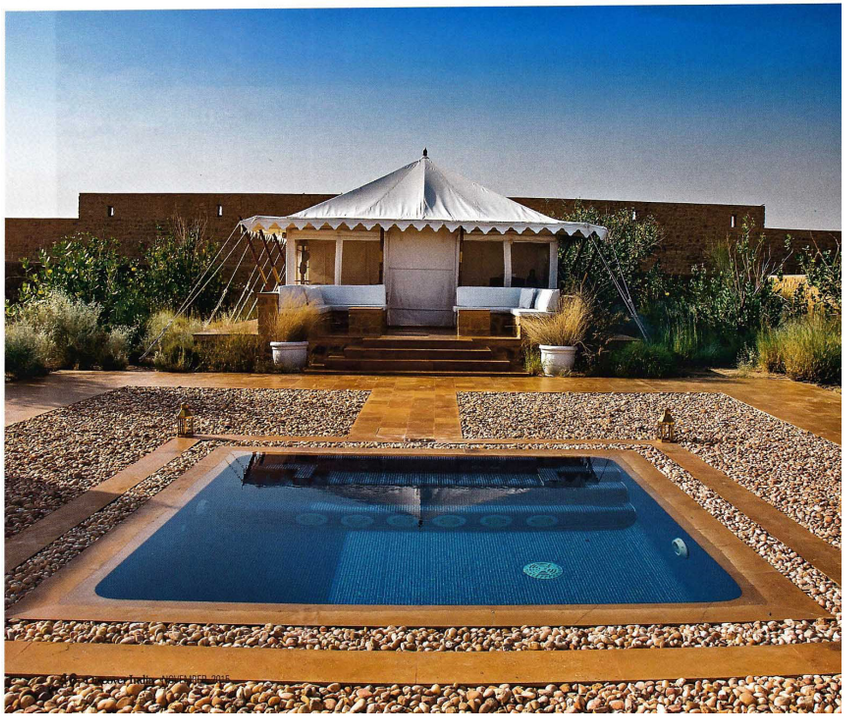

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A Table For Two

Romance comes a-calling in picturesque settings where intimate meals become a celebration of love and togetherness...in the lee of the Taj Mahal, a palace or a hilltop monastery; in a desert, a sinewy fort, a lush forest or even in a haunted, abandoned town.

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