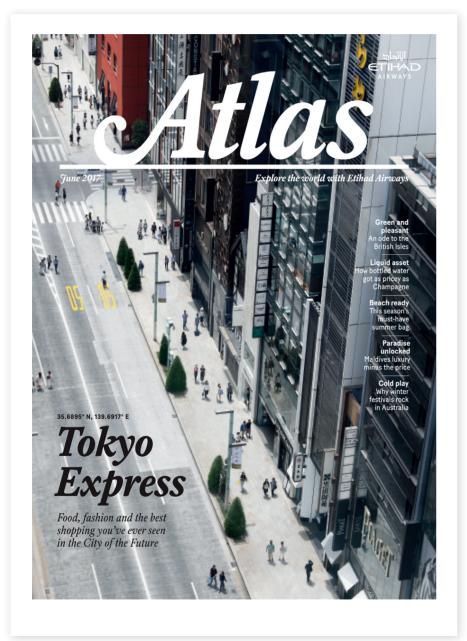
## ATLAS ETIHAD AIRWAYS

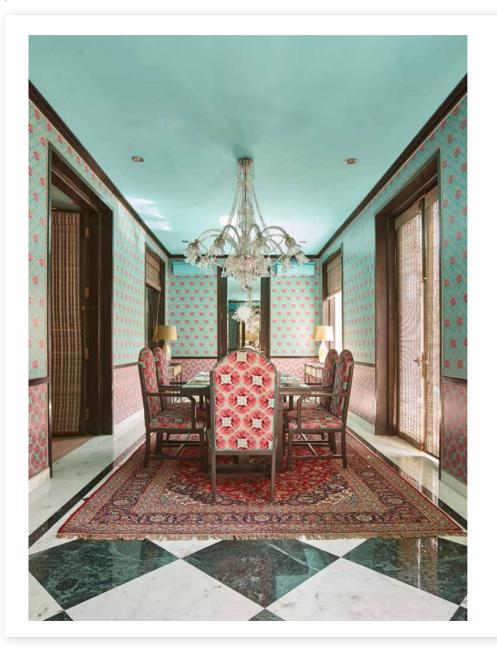
"The Orient Occident is a buzz every night with the city creatives"

June 2017



## ATLAS ETIHAD AIRWAYS

June 2017



26.9124° N, 75.7873° E

## **Brighten the corners**



Opposite
The Suján Rajmahal
Palace's Maharani
Suite offers guests a
vast master bedroom
plus sitting room,
private dining room
and even kitchen

Left
The library at
28 Kothi, "fresh,
clean and sober.
A place to
absorb it all"

There's a quiet revolution going on in Jaipur. The Rajasthani capital has long been a site of grand historic splendour, now the next generation of young creatives is bringing fresh ideas to its hotels, restaurants and boutiques. We meet the new guard

Words by Dee Archer Photography by David Woolley

## ATLAS ETIHAD AIRWAYS

June 2017

26.9124° N, 75.7873° E JAIPUR'S NEW FACES



The modern Maharaja's palace Suján Rajmahal Palace



f Wes Anderson conjured up a vision of a Jaipuri palace, it would look very like the Suján Rajmahal with its candy-pink exterior and white colonnades. The interior too is a riot of colour. Over forty bespoke wallpapers line the walls of the hotel, with vivid motifs that fuse an Art Deco style with more traditional images of cypress trees and floral patterns inspired by the city's famous forts and mansions, or havelis.

"Rajmahal has always been the private property of the royal family of Jajpur," explains Jaisal Singh, 37, CEO of the Suján luxury hotel group, which oversaw the property's renovation in 2014 alongside New Delhi interior designer Adil Ahmad. "They wanted to breathe fresh life into this treasure."

Together they set about creating a very modern palace hotel, fit for Jaipur's current maharaja (His Highness Sawai Singh is only 18 years old), as well as a playful alternative to the city's dated heritage hotels, taking inspiration from some of the great hotels - "in London, The Goring, in Paris the Saint James, and, on safari, undoubtedly Londolozi Private Game Reserve in South Africa".

Upstairs, the 13 rooms and suites pay homage to the palace's most famous former guests (top pick is the pretty if a touch flamboyant Kennedy Suite, once home to the first lady for three months, hung with handmade papers in eye-popping turquoise and hot pink tones), while downstairs the atmospheric Orient Occident dining room is abuzz every night with city creatives.

Since the facelift, Singh has noticed Rajmahal "has changed people's perception of interiors. Almost every other hotel in Jaipur has the same predictable interiors and architectural style". The same certainly can't be said of this treasure in the heart of Jaipur. saigantusury.com/raj-mahal

Top and above Jaisal Singh's redesign of the Suján Rajmahal Palace on behalf of the royal family nods to Art Deco and classic Jaipuri style





Main and left
Teatro Dhora owner
Aavritri Jain took her
cue from European
boutiques but stocks
distinctly Indian
goods. The shop has
become a focal point
for arty types

The high-concept store
Teatro
Dhora



She set about creating a shop that would stand up against the likes of Dover Street Market, 10 Corso Como or Colette, but stocking "all natural, organic" Indian brands such as Noshan Ali, Nicobar and the Byredo-esque fragrance line Bombay Perfumery.

The walls – all moody blue Farrow and Ball hues – suddenly provided the perfect backforp to showcase art and photography by local artists. A decked stage was incorporated at the back of the store "where you can come and perform. We've had gigs by classical Indian singers, exhibitions and poetry recitals during Jaipur Literary Festival".

The furniture and homewares, from the Jodhpuri armoires and vintage Indian trunks to renowned Rajasthani dhurrie rugs, is superb. And it's not just for show – "everything in the store is for sale, except myself," laughs Jain.

Although she admits that the store's clientele is still "predominantly foreigners and tourists", it has tapped into a nascent young creative community in Jaipur that want "an active space" to exchange ideas and meet like-minded people.

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