

ATLAS
ETIHAD AIRWAYS
June 2017

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





26.9124° N, 75.7873° E

Brighten the corners



Opposite
The Sujan 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

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JAIPUR'S NEW FACES



The modern
Maharaja's palace
**Suján
Rajmahal
Palace**



If 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 Jaipur," 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. sujanluxury.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**



The idea behind Teatro Dhora was simple enough. Aavritri Jain, 26, wanted to create a space that "absorbed" her experiences studying at Milan's Istituto Marangoni and travels in Europe: "Teatro - 'theatre' in Italian - fit well with our philosophy. We wanted it to be a theatre of all the things we liked and an active space."

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 backdrop 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 armchairs 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. *9 Yashwant Place, 302006 Jaipur*