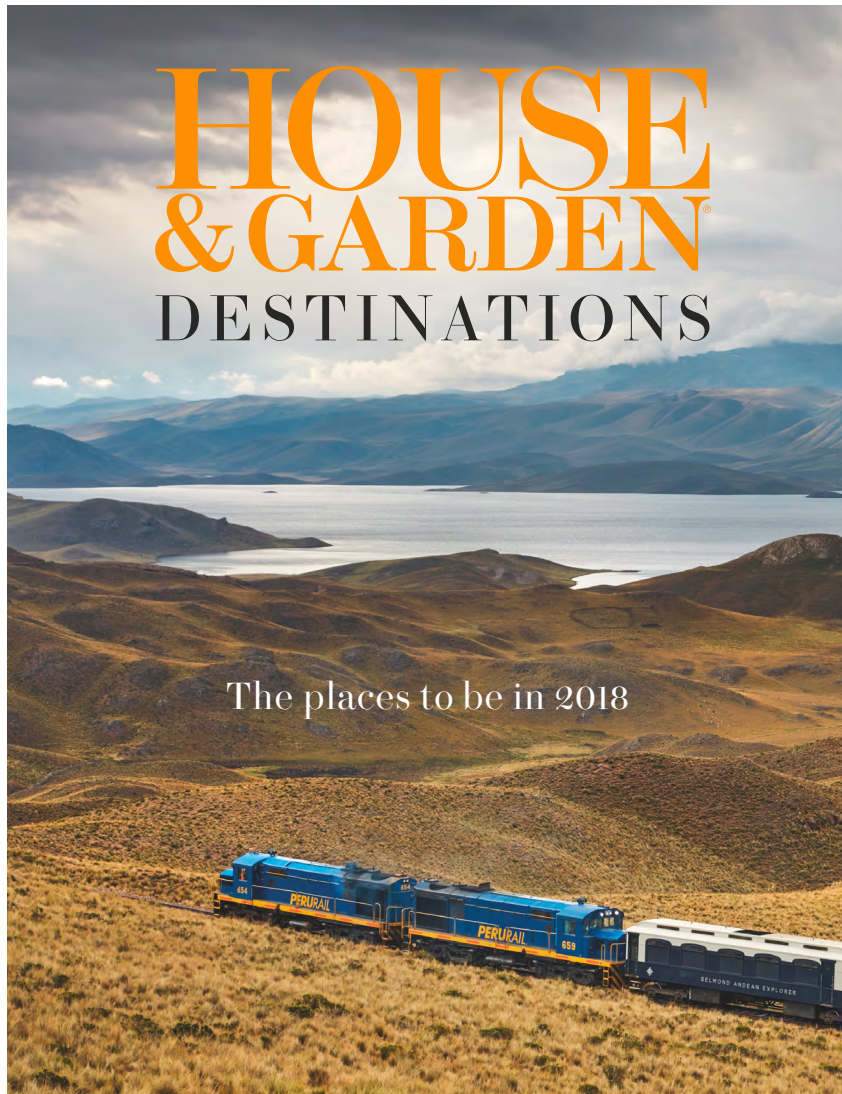


HOUSE & GARDEN DESTINATIONS GUIDE

January 2018

“An unforgettable stay.”



HOUSE & GARDEN[®] DESTINATIONS

The places to be in 2018

DESTINATIONS | HOTELS

Staying in style

Indian hotels don't do minimalism, and it's a good thing, too. *House & Garden's* acting editor Gabby Deeming reveals her favourites for design flair, from the Golden Triangle to the capital



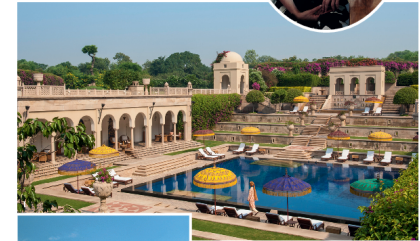
SECOND BEST ADDRESS IN TOWN Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra
There's generally one reason to visit Agra, so why not make the most of it? Every bedroom at Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra (1) offers guests a view of the Taj Mahal so you barely need take your eyes off it, even when the gates close at night. The decoration takes its inspiration from the mausoleum and craftsmanship is evident throughout, from the Mughal flower paintings in the courtyard, to the staff's cool uniforms and turbans – hand block-printed in Jaipur. *Doubles from £360, B&B. oberoihotels.com*

ONE OF A KIND Taj Palace, Mumbai
Mumbai's iconic Taj Mahal Palace (2) holds its position overlooking the majestic Gateway of India with all the confidence that a century as Mumbai's most famous hotel will bestow. Famed for its 800 staff for almost as many guests, a host of famous restaurants and roll-call of starry clientele, its wonderfully extravagant interiors feature Belgian chandeliers, tassels galore and silk carpets all set against onyx columns and vaulted alabaster ceilings. *Doubles from £169, B&B. tajhotels.com*

FIT FOR A PRINCE Ahilya Fort, Maheshwar
Built in 1766 for a warrior princess, staying at magical Ahilya Fort (3) feels more like being a house guest than a paying one. Set high above the holy river Narmada, amid temples and beautifully kept gardens, it provides many a shady nook in which to relax. The interiors are in harmony with their surroundings, with an emphasis on natural materials and antique textiles. Rooms are housed in six palace buildings or there is a tent with plunge pool. *Doubles from £232, all inclusive. ahilyafort.com*

THE REALLY WILD ONE Sujan Sher Bagh, Ranthambore
Few travel experiences carry more romantic associations than the luxury desert camp: lantern-lit dinners, stylish tents decked out with campaign furniture, four-posters and power showers. All this, however, is just the icing on the cake at Sher Bagh in Ranthambore (4), where guests come from all over to see Rajasthan's elusive tigers. You may get lucky, but in the meantime, plenty of other wildlife, and the beauty of the camp, ensure an unforgettable stay. *Doubles from £554, full board. sujanluxury.com*

THE NEW TAKE ON TRADITION Bujera Fort, Udaipur
Richard Hanlon likes a challenge, and deciding to build a brand new Indian fort certainly tested his mettle. The results however are remarkable; tucked up in the hills, a short drive from Udaipur, it's hard to believe Bujera Fort (5) is only a few years old. Shady cloisters enclose a garden of frangipani and lemon trees. The interiors exude Indian style with English comfort; squashy chintz sofas sit alongside artworks and antiques – as much as possible reclaimed. Rooms are airy and peaceful with views across the valley. *Doubles from £100, B&B. bujerafort.com* □



Shady cloisters enclose a garden of frangipani and lemon trees. The interiors exude Indian style with English comfort

SHARON MOSELEY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): JAGAL SINGH