

ODE to MEMORY

The new premium suites at Narendra Bhawan Bikaner firmly place the boutique hotel in the gallery of stellar design hotels across the country



The Regimental Room reflects a masculine sensibility (left); Interesting design elements like this handmade chair make the rooms stand out

There is a tempest of heat that blazes through the hotel, blowing hot and cold as you dip in and out of rooms. At Narendra Bhawan, Bikaner, there is no immunity from the elements as, much like in a home, here too you find yourself going through doors into rooms that knead the summer heat that can't be blocked out because of the way the space has been built. There's a cat, Zuzu, lying under one of the Art Deco furniture pieces and strains

of music stretch the moment as jazz meets sunshine in the middle of the desert. There's jazz everywhere and Dave Brubeck's *Kathy's Waltz* transforms the moment from the mundane to the magical as you are transported to a Parisian salon. Images of women in glistening pearls and whimsical chiffons smoking slims as they contemplate life come to mind.

When Narendra Bhawan was launched last year, much was said and written about its history, its connection to Narendra

Singhji the last king of Bikaner who once lived here, and the architecture of the space. Yet now, as the boutique design hotel spreads its wings and opens three new categories of suites, it's evident that design and drama are at the core of this hotel's philosophy. What elevates the experience here is the nuances. The new India Rooms have a heightened Indian aesthetic as a swathe of indigo hangs on a wall right next to a spinning wheel



that recalls the age of khadi. Linen curtains, brass table lamps, table-like metal tables and a verandah that was made to muse on a gold-edged charpoy make this room a delightful addition. Similarly the Regimental Rooms reflect a masculine sensibility but there are elements of whimsy as the cupboards are clad in fabric with grey, billowing clouds printed on them. With objets d'art and a rich colour palette that is soothing, the rooms make for happy spaces. There is a sense that you can amble at will and pick lint off old memories as you spool new ones at Narendra Bhawan, a timeless jewel in the heart of desert country.

TARIFF Upwards of ₹12,000
www.narendrabhawan.com

— Prachi Bhuchar

SWISS AIRLINES

A TASTE OF HOME

With local turning into the new global, Swiss has launched its new inflight menu with extensive Indian options, for passengers travelling from India to Zurich. The new menu —inspired by traditional and gourmet recipes made with fresh ingredients— puts some delightful twists on classic Indian dishes. The menu, available for both first class and economy passengers, offers a selection of appetisers and entrees



including lobster slice with beetroot mayo, roast lamb leg forestier with parsley baby potato, carrot batons and creamy spinach, pan seared sea-bass with grilled zucchini, herb rice and chunky tomato sauce, mattar badam ki tikki with olive kofta, methi gajar, rainbow pulao, dal tadka, anar raita and gobhi parantha. The in-house ice creams with fresh fruit compote and berry sauce are perfectly balanced to finish your meal on a sweet note.

www.swiss.com

— Jahnvi Chakravarty