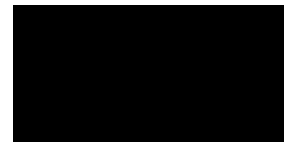




Source: EP Magazine {Main}
Edition:
Country: UK
Date: Tuesday 1, April 2014
Page: 22,23
Area: 922 sq. cm
Circulation: Pub Stmt 4000 Quarterly
Ad data: page rate £1,800.00, scc rate £0.00
Phone: 020 70251862
Keyword: The Montcalm



World Boutique Hotel Awards

CELEBRATE THOSE WITH A VISION

In late November 2013, The Montcalm hotel hosted the World Boutique Awards, which attracted hoteliers from across the world. What struck home was so many of the winners built their hotels from a dream and a vision. They believed in something different and have built operations that win business from across the globe. The hotel that won the top award – Mihir Garh – is one such example

Mihir Garh in Rajasthan, India, is owned by Rashmi and Sidharth Singh, who have worked hard to create and realise the vision that they had for the hotel amidst the vast wilderness of the Thar Desert. The Singh family's ancestors were former feudal lords of Rohet and the surrounding desert since 1622. The words mihir garh mean 'Fort of the Sun' – a very apt description for the hotel. The hotel today is a palatial boutique fort perched on a single dune among the sands of the Thar Desert, around 55km south west of Jodhpur.

Mihir Garh is their newest retreat and was built entirely from materials around the area. The hotel was constructed to look like an old fort in the middle of the desert and is a somewhat surreal sight rising out of the dunes. Rashmi is said to have personally designed and selected everything from the door knobs and curtain holders to the colour schemes that hold it all together. There are only nine suites in the hotel, however each is larger than 1,700 square feet and includes its own plunge pool.

The couple ventured into hospitality by accident. Sidharth inherited his family's estate and, given that it sat on the edge of a desert, there were few visitors. He had an estate that was floundering and in need of renovation. However, they saw an opportunity to develop a hotel that would serve to rebuild the infrastructure plus bring a new commercial focus. They brought together Indian heritage with a legacy of the English influence on India. This fusion has been developed and excited many, and the hotel has now

attracted a lot of new visitors, including Madonna.

The suites are spread over two floors, with a private jacuzzi or plunge pool. Numerous alcoves, lounges and common areas commanding a spectacular view have been designed to allow guests to experience intimacy and romantic privacy during their stay.

"From the colours used for the interiors, to the careful selection of building material, we wanted to contain the rich tradition of this land. Our inspiration was the rural village architecture of Western Rajasthan. Every nook and corner has been lovingly created by a very talented team. Every single workman involved in bringing Mihir Garh to life hails from the region and this award is a celebration of their efforts," said Sidharth.

Mihir Garh also boasts 'Marwari' horses in its stables, noted as the finest in the country. There are a variety of treatments available at Mihir Garh's spa, which, combined with al fresco breakfasts, royal picnics and culinary workshops, complement the stay. ●

World's best boutique hotel

Mihir Garh
(Rajasthan, India)

Regional winners

Best Boutique Hotel in Africa

Pondoro Game Lodge
(Balule, South Africa)

Best Boutique Hotel in Australasia

Saffire Freycinet
(Tasmania, Australia)

Best Boutique Hotel in the Caribbean

Eden Roc at Cap Cana
(Cap Cana, Dominican Republic)

Best Boutique Hotel in Europe

Poseidonion Grand Hotel
(Spetses, Greece)

Best Boutique Hotel in North America

Rancho Valencia
(California, USA)

Best Boutique Hotel in South America

Entre Cielos
(Mendoza, Argentina)
Category winners

Blissful Beach

Eden Roc at Cap Cana
(Cap Cana, Dominican Republic)

Sandi Phala Resort
(Bali, Indonesia)

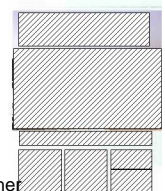
The Remote Resort
(Vanua Levu, Fiji)

City Explorer

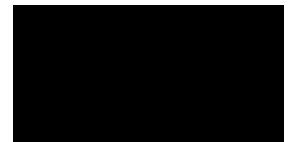
Corral del Rey
(Seville, Spain)

Hansar Bangkok
(Bangkok, Thailand)

Ovolo 2 Arbuthnot Road
(Hong Kong, China)



Source: EP Magazine {Main}
Edition:
Country: UK
Date: Tuesday 1, April 2014
Page: 22,23
Area: 922 sq. cm
Circulation: Pub Stmt 4000 Quarterly
Ad data: page rate £1,800.00, scc rate £0.00
Phone: 020 70251862
Keyword: The Montcalm



The Toren
(Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

Classic Elegance

Chateau le Cagnard
(Haut-de-Cagnes, France)

Tai O Heritage Hotel
(Hong Kong, China)

The Luang Say Residence
(Luang Prabang, Laos)

The Pand Hotel
(Bruges, Belgium)

Culinary Excellence

Alma Hotel
(Tel-Aviv, Israel)

Poseidonion Grand Hotel
(Spetses, Greece)

Saffire Freycinet
(Tasmania, Australia)

The Samling Hotel
(Windermere, England)

Inspired design

Fusion Boutique Hotel
(Polokwane, South Africa)

Hotel Bourg Tibourg
(Paris, France)

Hotel Tresanton
(Cornwall, England)

The Thief
(Oslo, Norway)

Newcomer

Kahanda Kanda
(Galle, Sri Lanka)

Lanson Place
(Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

Olive Boutique Hotel
(San Juan, Puerto Rico)

Parkhotel Surenburg
(Surenburg, Germany)

Romantic retreat

La Bandita
(Tuscany, Italy)

Mihir Garh
(Rajasthan, India)

Pondoro Game Lodge
(Balule, South Africa)

Puripunn Baby Grand
Boutique Hotel
(Chiang Mai, Thailand)

Sensuous spa

Entre Cielos
(Mendoza, Argentina)

Rancho Valencia
(California, USA)

The Pavilions Phuket
(Phuket, Thailand)

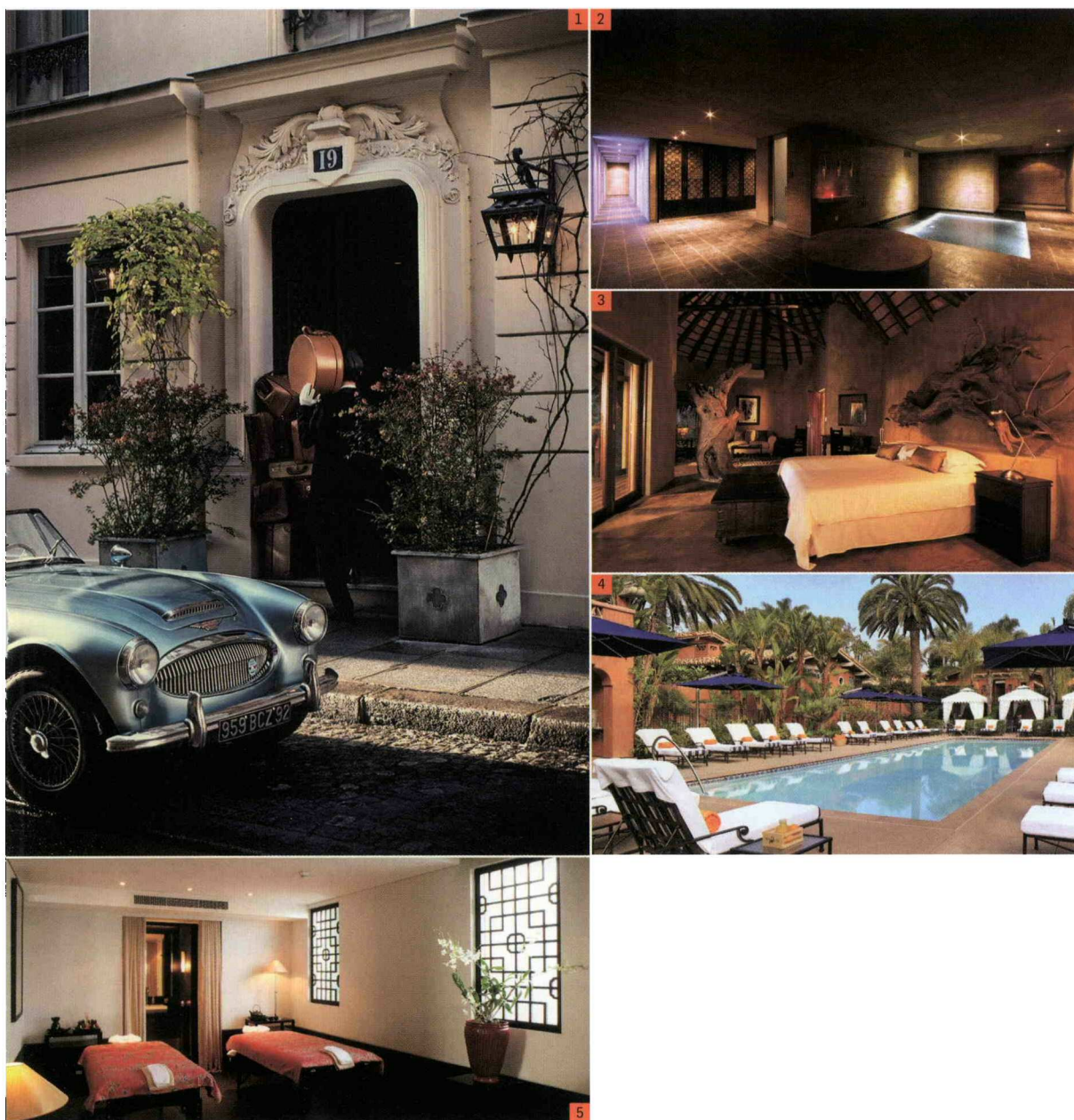
Sustainability

ION Luxury
Adventure Hotel
(Nesjavellir, Iceland)

Lake Serenity
(Ratnapura, Sri Lanka)

Unguja Lodge
(Zanzibar, Tanzania)

Source: EP Magazine {Main}
Edition:
Country: UK
Date: Tuesday 1, April 2014
Page: 22,23
Area: 922 sq. cm
Circulation: Pub Stmt 4000 Quarterly
Ad data: page rate £1,800.00, scc rate £0.00
Phone: 020 70251862
Keyword: The Montcalm



Opposite page: Mihir Garh hotel

Above: 1 Hotel Bourg Tibourg; 2 Entre Cielos;

3 Pondoro Game Lodge; 4 Rancho Valencia; 5 The Pavilions

Source: EP Magazine {Main}
Edition:
Country: UK
Date: Tuesday 1, April 2014
Page: 22,23
Area: 922 sq. cm
Circulation: Pub Stmt 4000 Quarterly
Ad data: page rate £1,800.00, scc rate £0.00
Phone: 020 70251862
Keyword: The Montcalm

