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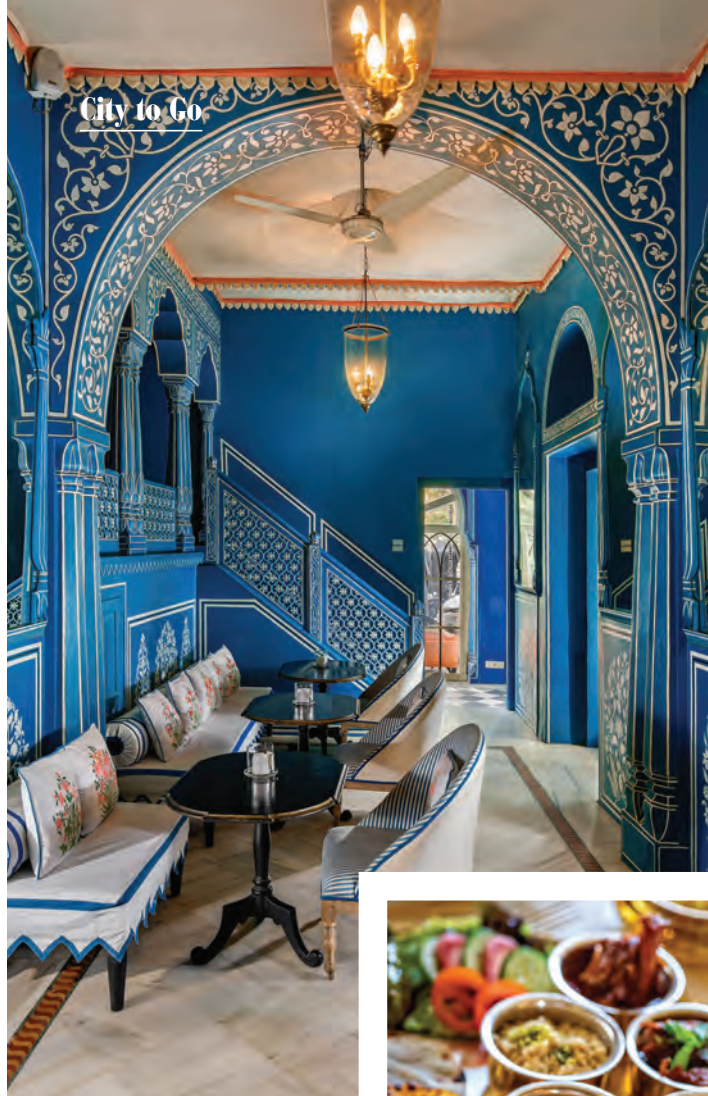
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Rosy on Jaipur

Rajasthan's timeless Pink City is a gem of contemporary arts and culture.

BY SARAH KHAN PHOTOGRAPHY BY ATUL PRATAP CHAUHAN

GO FOR Jaipur is hardly off the beaten path: The Rajasthani capital is a long-established favorite for its romantic palaces and forts, and bright and blingy textiles and jewels. But in recent years, the Pink City has made a serious play for the title of India's cultural capital, with the reinvention of the **Jawahar Kala Kendra** arts center, the unveiling of India's first modern sculpture park in a timeworn, eighteenth-century palace high atop a hill at Nahargarh Fort, and gatherings such as the **Jaipur Literature Festival**, which lures global literary A-listers and more than a half million visitors each January. Smaller, niche museums are also vying for patronage – the **Gyan** and **Amrapali** museums, both established by some of the city's most prominent jewelers, pay tribute to Jaipur's generations-old reputation as the center of India's jewelry trade.

EAT A cheery haven in the leafy, residential Civil Lines

neighborhood, tiny **Cafe Kothi** (28, *Civil Lines Road*) won a following for its vegetarian Kothi bowls – the quinoa biryani bowl and one-pot pasta are favorites – as well as for salads, breakfast wraps, and polenta Parmesan fries.

For a decadent Rajasthani feast, book a table at the opulent **Suvarna Mahal** (*Bhawani Singh Road*), the former dining room of the maharajah at the Rambagh Palace. Tuck into a classic thali with *dal baati churma* (lentils with fried wheat), *gatta* curry with dumplings, and more.

Laxmi Mishthan Bhandar (*Shop 98-99, Johari Bazaar Road*) is almost as much of a landmark as the nearby City Palace (both date to the 1720s): Locals have sated sweet teeth here for nearly 300 years. It's tough to choose between milk cake, *mawa kachori* (puffed pastry with sweet cheese filling) and other

Clockwise from top left: Bar Palladio, Hawa Mahal, *thali* at Suvarna Mahal, Madhavendra Palace's sculpture park at Nahargarh Fort, and Parampara's colorful wares.



Clockwise from top left: Jawahar Circle's Patrika Gate, a Gem Palace scene, and Idli boutique.

Rajasthani favorites; luckily, they pack well for travel.

DRINK Italy meets India at popular **Bar Palladio** (Narain Singh Road), a striking blue watering hole that's an atmospheric fusion

of the two cultures' aesthetics. Settle into one of the banquettes below the frescoed walls inside or opt to sit on a blue-and-white-tented daybed outside, where you might find a stray peacock for company.

At the City Palace museum – part of which is still home to Jaipur's royal family – **Baradari** (City Palace, Gate 2) makes for a regal night out. Sip Negronis and pomegranate martinis amid the sexy lighting and modern finishes of its charming courtyard.

No trip to Jaipur is complete without a stop at **Lassiwalla** (Shop 312, M.I. Road), a no-frills stall that has plied locals with sweetened yogurt lassis served in clay cups for 75 years.

SHOP Brothers Siddharth and Samarth Kasliwal are the ninth generation to run **The Gem Palace** (Shop 348, M.I. Road), a jewelry emporium with outposts across India and even on New York's Upper East Side. But their Jaipur flagship is, understandably, closest to their hearts, and they've recently remade it in brilliant shades of pink nearly as beguiling as the baubles within.

Parampara concept store (Panch Batti, M.I. Road) brims with local and global finds: rugs by From Jaipur with Love, Colombian *mochila* bags from Verdi, Shalia resort wear, and shoes and more from the house label of Parampara's co-owner, Jaipur-based Colombian designer Virginia Borrero de Castro.

The **Kanota** center (Kanota Bagh, Narain Singh Road) is a cluster of sleek fashion, accessories, and housewares emporiums. Browse totes and cushion

TIP

"One of my favorite experiences from a recent visit was an open-air jeep tour of the city at night. Jaipur comes alive in the evenings with beautifully lit building facades and exhilarating sights and sounds."

– Carol Bisconti, *Virtuoso* travel advisor, Haddonfield, New Jersey

covers at **The Jaipur Collective**, jewelry at **Umraro** and **Surabhi**, antiques at **O'd' Gulabee**, housewares at **Anantaya**, and airy dresses and tunics at French designer Thierry Journo's colorful boutique **Idli**.

STAY Get your bearings at **Rambagh Palace** by taking a spin around the 47-acre property in one of its four vintage cars, say, the sky-blue 1937 Ford V35. The historic royal abode welcomes travelers with 78 rooms and five restaurants and bars. Local tradition has it that losing teams at the adjacent Rajasthan Polo Club buy winners a round at the hotel's beloved Polo Bar. *Doubles from \$360, including breakfast daily and lunch or dinner once during stay.*

Roughly 20 minutes outside the city, the 71-room **Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur** is a fort-like retreat from the hubbub, complete with traditional Rajasthani-style arches, turrets, and pavilions. But the star is the spa, set in a converted eighteenth-century *haveli* and home to treatments such as sandalwood body wraps and jasmine facials. *Doubles from \$405, including breakfast daily and lunch or dinner once during stay.* **VI**