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Forbes May 2018

Queen for a Day: 5 of the World's Best Palace Hotels

We can be tiny-house minimalists or midcentury modernists at home, but almost all of us, on some level, swoon for the regal grandeur of another place and time. Every once in a while, it's a treat to swan around like some duchess or maharani, surrounded by frescoed walls, parquet floors and magnificent chandeliers.

Plenty of grand hotels have “Palace” in their name, but the reality is that most of their rooms and common areas are in new buildings that are less than palatial. But these five are the real deal, with a history that lives up to their billing.

Suján Rajmahal Palace, India

An 18th-century pleasure garden for a favorite queen, the British Residency during the Raj and the private home of His Highness Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II, the pink palace is among the most opulent and regal hotels in Jaipur. Instead of giving guests the sense that they're exploring a museum, the Rajmahal Palace transports them to a fantasy life of being royalty themselves. Society designer Aa'il Ahmad (a friend of the royal family, which still owns the hotel) oversaw a meticulous refurbishment of all 14 rooms and public spaces several years ago. The wallpaper alone is reason to visit.