“The most beautiful hotels in India”

From dilapidated palaces in the pink city of Jaipur to toes-in-the-sand beach havens in Goa, "Virtuoso Hotels of India" is a new book that explores the most beautiful places to stay across this joyfully colourful continent.

The most beautiful hotels in India

Travels to India need to be full of similar stories: over-optimistic promises, chaotic service, ramshackle buildings, creaky plumbing and broken air-conditioning. For those who appreciate unique charm, many of these shortfalls could be overlooked, but for others it was a place to be approached with trepidation. However, India today is an emerging global superpower and is leading the world in a variety of fields, including hospitality. The hotel industry has matured. Standards have risen beyond all recognition, and there is a break away from the cookie-cutter approach to hotel design, with a growing appreciation for individually and beautifully restored heritage properties. Indian hoteliers are increasingly well-travelled. They have witnessed the best the world has to offer, and are able and eager to match or exceed what they have seen. Another development is an increasing pride in Indian culture and the confidence to create genuinely Indian hotels. India can now rightly claim to be home to some of the most breathtaking hotels in the world. Some are so excellent that they are as near to heaven as can be found.

Extract by James Jagdeo (founder of Angesnoel Travel), taken from the introduction of "Virtuoso Hotels of India" by Comms Samuel Bouwkamp and Harriet Compin. Available to buy at engbookstore.com.