“The Orient Occident is a buzz every night with the city creatives”
There’s a quiet revolution going on in Jaipur. The Rajasthani capital has long been a site of grand historic splendour, now the next generation of young creatives is bringing fresh ideas to its hotels, restaurants and boutiques. We meet the new guard.

Words by Dee Archer
Photography by David Woolley
The modern
Mughal masterpiece
Suján
Rajmahal Palace

If Wes Anderson conjured up a vision of a Jaipur hotel, it would look something like the Suján Rajmahal, with its candy-pink exterior and white columns. The interior too is a riot of colour. Over 300 bespoke sculptures line the walls of the hotel, with wall murals that are so authentic in style that they’re mistaken for traditional images of expression and floral patterns inspired by the city’s famous forts and mansions, or Aarey.

"Suján has always been the private property of the royal family of Jaipur," explorer-singer Jimmy, JP, CEO of the Suján luxury hotel group, which oversees the property’s renovation in 2014 alongside New Delhi interior designer Adi Singh. "They wanted us to create a fresh look, but still rooted in its traditions.

Together they set about creating a very modern palace hotel. It for Jaipur’s current monarch. His Highness Sawai Singh is only 15 years old, as well as a place to celebrate the city’s rich heritage, hotels, taking inspiration from some of the great hotels. "In London, The Goring in Paris the Same hotel, and, on safari, the legendary Sabi Sand Private Game Reserve in South Africa.

Upstairs, the 13 rooms and suites pay homage to the palace’s most famous former guests. The pick of the bunch is a touch St James’s Hotel Suite, once home to the royal family for three months, hung with handmade papers in oyster, gold and green, with handpainted murals and floral designs, while downstairs the atmosphere of a classic European dining room is heavy with royal ambiance.

As an added glimpse into Sandip Sujan’s Rajmahal: "Suján has changed people’s perceptions of Jaipur. Almost every other hotel in Jaipur has learnt from the Suján’s predictability and architectural scale. This is something that can’t be said of this treasure in the heart of Jaipur, a perfect example of opulence!"

The high-concept store
Teatro Dhora

The idea behind Teatro Dhora was simple enough. A relative of the Jain clan, 35, wanted to create a space that “shocked” her experiences studying at Milan’s fashion and design schools in Paris - “it’s a space that we like, we love it, we feel comfortable here.”

She set about creating a shop that would stand against the likes of Aveda, Kiehl’s or Estée Lauder, but stocking “affordable, organic” Indian brands such as Patanjali, Aam, Noorah and the Bhutanese export of Bumbay Businesses.

The walls - all moody blues, purples and reds - suddenly provided the perfect backdrop to showcase art and photography to local artists. A deck stage waspeopled at the back of the store “where you can come and perform.” We’ve had键盘-style Indian singers, exhibitions and poetry recitals during the Umeen Patta

The furniture and homewares, from the handwoven throws and rugs, Indian trinkets to renowned Rajasthani chocolates, are unique. And it’s not just for show. “Everything in the store is for sale, except myself,” Jana Jain.

Although she admits that the store’s clientele is still predominantly foreigner and Indians, it has tapped into a unique young creative community in Jaipur that want an “active space” to exchange ideas and meet like-minded people.

Top and above