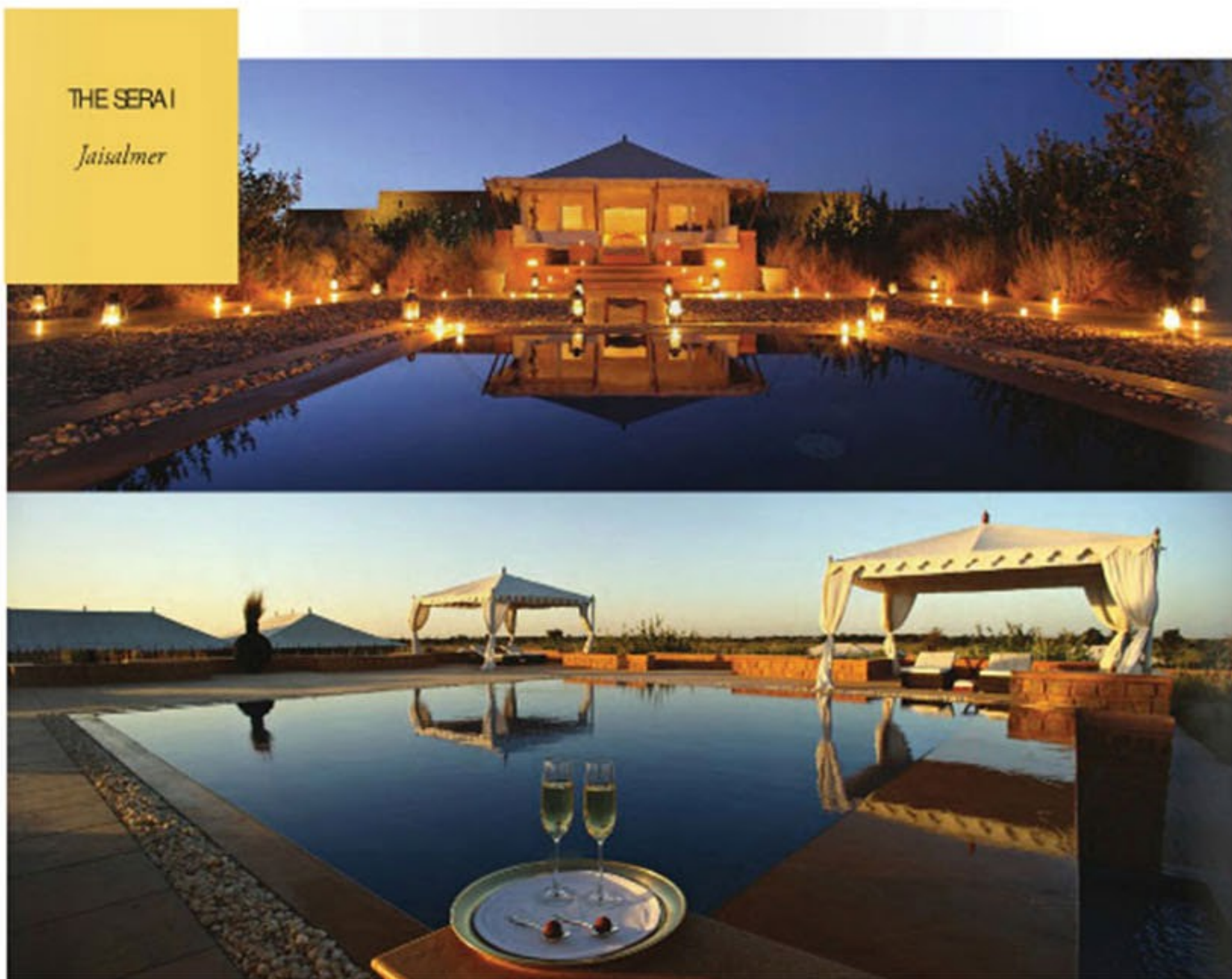


“The luxury camp draws design inspiration from the royal caravan sites of the Rajputana with 21 impressive tents transforming into cosy sanctuaries.”



THE SERAI  
Jaisalmer

Drama in the Desert | The Serai

Rippled sand dunes, historic forts, a grandiose setting and a warm welcome await in the stunning luxury desert camp: The Serai, Jaisalmer. The luxury camp draws design inspiration from the royal caravan sites of the Rajputana with 21 impressive tents transforming into cosy sanctuaries. The tastefully furnished tents reveal a contemporary palette with pops of colour. What is lovely is that some of the tents have their own private walled garden and a sunken, heated dip pool with Jacuzzi jets. And the Royal Tent is where you live life king size right in the middle of a desert: private garden, outdoor pool and tents to dine and lounge in and a spa to relax. Need anything more?

This quintessentially luxury getaway anchors the drama with its pool – a unique inversion of a traditional Rajasthani baoli (step-well) – offering an elevated view of the sprawling camp. The Bar has deep club chairs thrown in the midst of plush accoutrements and is a great spot for chilled sunset drinks.

An inky desert sky, a canopy of stars and the silence of the evening, often punctuated by the songs of Manganiyar tribesmen: a perfect ambience for dinner. It is a giddy joy to lunch and dine on the regional specialities and western repasts from a daily changing menu. This is just what you need to keep culinary boredom at bay. Prefer dining somewhere on site and not in the dining tent? Just let the staff members know well in advance. Nothing is too complicated or too much trouble for them. The Serai's team works with clockwork precision to make your stay utterly delightful – paying attention to detail is their forte. What is also lovely is that the kitchen uses fresh, local ingredients and seasonal produce, especially those grown in the organic garden that thrives under the staff's care. You could lend a helping hand if you have green fingers.



**TRAVEL DESTINATIONS**  
For an in-depth introduction to the Thar desert, head to the dunes with gusto in specially modified SUVs. There are camel rides if you wish to do things in a traditional style. And for advanced lessons in history, art and culture, visit the hallowed Jain temples, abandoned village of Kuldhara and the majestic 'Golden Fortress.'

After baking in the sun during the day, it is best to retreat to the refreshingly cheerful Sujan Spa conceived by Raison d'Etre. Hemmed in by a walled garden, the spa has four tents and offers an array of soothing treatments to lift your weary spirits. You'll leave feeling renewed. Who'd have thought you'd become a spa addict while camping in the desert?



TO DO

Drive down to explore the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, which include the Golden Fortress of Jaisalmer, the Ranthambore Fort and the Fort of Kumbalgarh. For desert adventure and close encounters with the big cats, try the Jawai Leopard Camp. (Transfers and excursions are not included and need to be booked in advance).

GETTING THERE

Flights operate from New Delhi and Mumbai to Jodhpur. The Serai, Jaisalmer, is a three-hour drive from the Jodhpur airport. Private charters can land at Jaisalmer airport, 60 km away from the desert camp. Trains from New Delhi to Jaisalmer take around 12 hours, so the best bet would be to hop on a flight.

BOOK IT

www.sujanluxury.com. "The Serai is endorsed by Relais & Chateaux. Online hyperlink: <http://sujanluxury.com/the-serai/>



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