

# SINGAPORE TATLER HOMES

Singapore, October 2012

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## Regulars

TRAVEL NOTES

# Act Of Love

*Borne out of the couple's passion for luxury camping, The Serai bears testament to hoteliers Jaisal and Anjali Singh's commitment to exploration and six-star service*

BY YOUNG LIM IMAGES COURTESY OF THE SERAI RELAIS & CHATEAUX



**Q** Who designed the rooms and public areas in your resort?

**A** ANJALI: The Serai, part of the Relais & Châteaux fellowship, was designed by my husband, Jaisal and I. The luxury camping resort consists of 21 colonial-style tented safari suites set in the Thar desert, an hour from Jaisalmer, in Rajasthan, India.

**What other resorts/hotels have the both of you designed?**

We've recently refurbished the Sher Bagh in Ranthambhor and Elephant Pepper Camp in Masai Mara, Kenya.

**What are some unique features of your resort's design and architecture?**

The entire camp was constructed with local materials and suited to a desert environment spread over 35 acres, interspersed with waterways. We wanted the setting to be as romantic as possible so it would be a delight for honeymooners and explorers alike. Each canvas tent is raised on honeyed sandstone and comes with its own terrace lounge looking out into the safari. We also offer six premium suites that come with their own candlelit plunge pools. Every tent is finished with details like brass-plated service buttons, glass-stoppered bottles, monogrammed notepaper and even novels rebound in classic vellum.

**Is there a thriving art/design scene in the area?**

There are indigenous crafts of the local area, stone-work carving and traditional items. More importantly, there is a thriving community of world-class local folk musicians.

**Can you recommend a unique spot for visitors to the location to go to see the best scenery?**

Guests to the Serai enjoy a magnificent 360-degree panoramic view spanning the entire landscape from our inverted step well swimming pool, raised at a height of 10 ft. That is the best spot to take in the awe-inspiring sights of the surrounding scenery.



**OPPOSITE**  
Jaisal and Anjali Singh

**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT**

Top chefs prepare fine-dining menus at the resort's main restaurant. Personal plunge pools are available in the larger camp units. Elaborate Victorian-style accents run throughout the resort. The pools dotting the resort offer an oasis of calm in the desert terrain. Plush spreads and impeccable service are offered to all the guests

**BELOW RIGHT**

Six star service by trained local staff add romance and intrigue to the experience

**Where can visitors go to learn about the local culture/scenery?**

The resort offers a variety of bespoke excursions, including camel safaris and guided tours of Jaisalmer Fort, which is a restored fort from the 11th century, located a 45-minute drive from the hotel. These visits are great ways to soak in the local culture. Visitors who are interested in the history of the region can also head to the Kulohara ruins, which used to be an ancient village up till the early 19th century.

**How about looking for interesting home accessories or art pieces?**

Visitors can shop for local crafts from Jaisalmer town, which is a 45-minute drive from the hotel. The boutique in the resort also offers a diverse range of Jaisalmer stoneware, sculptures and woven shawls.

**What is the best time to visit?**

The best time would be between October to March, as Jaisalmer is located in the desert and summer temperatures can go as high as 50°C during the day.

**How can guests get to your resort?**

The nearest international airport is in New Delhi, following which an internal flight will bring you to Jodhpur. The Serai is a three and a half hour drive away. Alternately, a private charter into Jaisalmer city can also be arranged. Many guests prefer to cover Rajasthan in an itinerary, which includes Jaisalmer, so they may fly to Jaipur from New Delhi and then drive or fly from Jaipur to Jodhpur and drive down. ■

