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The reception area at SUJAN Rajmahal Palace, Jaipur.
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In its earlier life, the palace hotel has hosted Lord Mountbatten, Princess Diana and other people of taste

Honestly, sometimes I feel like I was born in the wrong era. And like I have the wrong set of friends. This hits me again as I’m driving down the path of Rajmahal, set in the heart of Jaipur. The palace, which is owned by the royal family of Jaipur, has served as its guest house (and played host to the likes of Lord Mountbatten, Princess Diana and Jacqueline Kennedy) and, in recent years, as the venue for many a Jaipur wedding. This is how I was meant to get away, I decide, sitting in the large ‘drawing room’ reception area, the walls of which are covered with Christmas tree-like printed wallpaper, along with oil paintings of various domestic fowl.



The entry gate to the hotel.

The property’s redesign, helmed by Adil Ahmed, creative director of Good Earth Charbagh, leaves one with the feeling that the space is meant to be more like someone’s home than a hotel—albeit a royal someone. Notice the tchotchkes and treasures, all from the royal family, of course, incorporated into the Rococo Art Deco design. Also, darling, love the pop colours.



The grand staircase.

Rajmahal Palace consists of five rooms and 10 suites, all of which come with butler service and have been decorated keeping separate themes in mind. The Maharaja (which serves as an apartment, if you book it and the Yuvraj suite together) has taxidermically preserved heads of deer mounted on striped wallpaper. And what does it take to feel like a princess for the day (or for the weekend)? Try the Maharani suite with its almost-too-decadent wide bed with a fan headboard, and large marble eggs in a bowl on the coffee table. Why the eggs? Absolutely no idea, but they seem like a good thing to hold while you gloat over your good fortune. What sets this suite apart is the private dip pool in the courtyard outside.



The Mountbatten Suite.

Rajmahal currently has four restaurants, including a bar that features old polo trophies and a portable drinks trolley. And another fine-dining option, all done up in brilliant rani pink, serves breakfast and lunch. Eventually a fifth restaurant will open by the back entrance, and this one will come with an attached shopping area. The new restaurant will also allow walk-in guests, while at any of the other four, guests will not be seated without prior reservation. Ah well, I think, looking out over the massive pool, and feeling quite regal, let them eat cake.



A fine-dining restaurant.