

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

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For the Love of Munnu

A new boutique hotel in Jaipur that's (refreshingly) more like a home than a palace.

For those familiar with India, the name Munnu Kasliwal is synonymous with Jaipur. When the jeweler and fifth-generation owner of the city's famed Gem Palace died in 2012, his son Siddharth took over the business, and now Sid (as he's known) has taken on another piece of his father's legacy: the opening of **28 Kothi**. The five-bedroom guesthouse, set in the quiet Civil Lines neighborhood, has a minimalist vibe—novel, but welcome in a region known for its ornate palace hotels. “Eventually, you want to be treated like family, not royalty,” Sid says of Kothi's appeal. “That's what I wanted to create.”

That's what Munnu wanted too. He'd hired an architect to design a house modeled on Jaipur's mid-century Art Deco bungalows. The project paused after Munnu's death, but a year later, Sid picked it back up, relying on trusted Gem Palace artisans and local craftspeople—carpenters and weavers among them—to add special touches like the handmade flat-weave dhurries and block-printed upholstered headboards in the rooms, and on the artist who does Gem Palace's miniature paintings and enamel-work for the painted palm trees on the walls. “It was all for the love of my father,” Sid explains. “Everyone came together, and Kothi came alive.” **ANDREW SESSA**



From top: The living room-like lobby of 28 Kothi; the hotel's farm-fresh pea soup served gardenside.

Hit List

Where Sid sends his friends when they're in town.

1135 AD

“This restaurant serves excellent Rajasthani food atop the sixteenth-century Amber Fort. You can look out over the whole city while you eat—you feel like you're lost in another era.”

HAWA MAHAL BAZAAR

“For a real Jaipur experience, every visitor should walk through the aisles of this market and try the *kulfi*, a sweet local ice cream-like dessert.”

IDLI

“French-born designer Thierry Journo opened this clothing and home

furnishings boutique a quick cab ride from Gem Palace. He uses really cool fabrics in modern prints and colors.”

KASHMIR LOOM

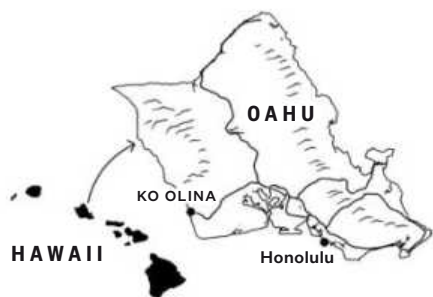
“This shop inside the Suján Rajmahal Palace hotel is *the* spot for the highest-quality scarves and shawls—many luxury fashion brands get their cashmere goods here.”

LAXMI MISHTAN BHANDAR

“Everyone who works in the jewelry market goes here for samosas and yogurt dumplings.”

NIROS

“It's been a bustling streetside spot since 1949 and has great traditional Indian food—get the dried *panir tikka*.”



Nonstop to Paradise

When it comes to proper high-end beach resorts in Hawaii like Maui's Fairmont Kea Lani or Kauai's St. Regis Princeville, Oahu has lagged behind the other islands (which is why it's often a stopover on the way to idyllic retreats elsewhere). But you may want to ditch

the day-killing connecting flight now that the Four Seasons has opened in Ko Olina, on Oahu's underexposed west coast—a beautiful stretch of shore known for its near-empty beaches. Unlike Oahu's other luxury hotels, most of which are crammed together

in Waikiki, the Four Seasons feels surprisingly “outer island,” set on 15 lush acres and with its own beach and three pools. And it's only a 30-minute drive from the Honolulu airport—unless, that is, you want to take the hotel's yacht or helicopter. **JOHN WOGAN**