



TEXT **ANANYA BAHL**



ROMANO'S, JW MARRIOTT SAHAR, MUMBAI

Situated about two kilometres away from the city's swanky international airport, this is an apt choice for a business meeting in between transit flights. The tasteful interiors and amenities offered – a signature spa, a modern event space, cutting-edge event planning and catering services, two fully-staffed business centres, make it a preferred option for large-group meetings and events. This particular on-site dining restaurant serves delectable homestyle Italian fare in a warm bistro-like setting with soft Italian music playing in the background. Its menu comprises rustic flavours from Sicily, Florence and Naples, complemented by the fine dining experience.

The restaurant provides an appropriate ambience for business luncheons leading into extended discussions over cups of cappuccino and macchiato.

Deal clinchers: Rustica Pizza, Agnolotti Di Salmone, Vulcano Di Cioccolato

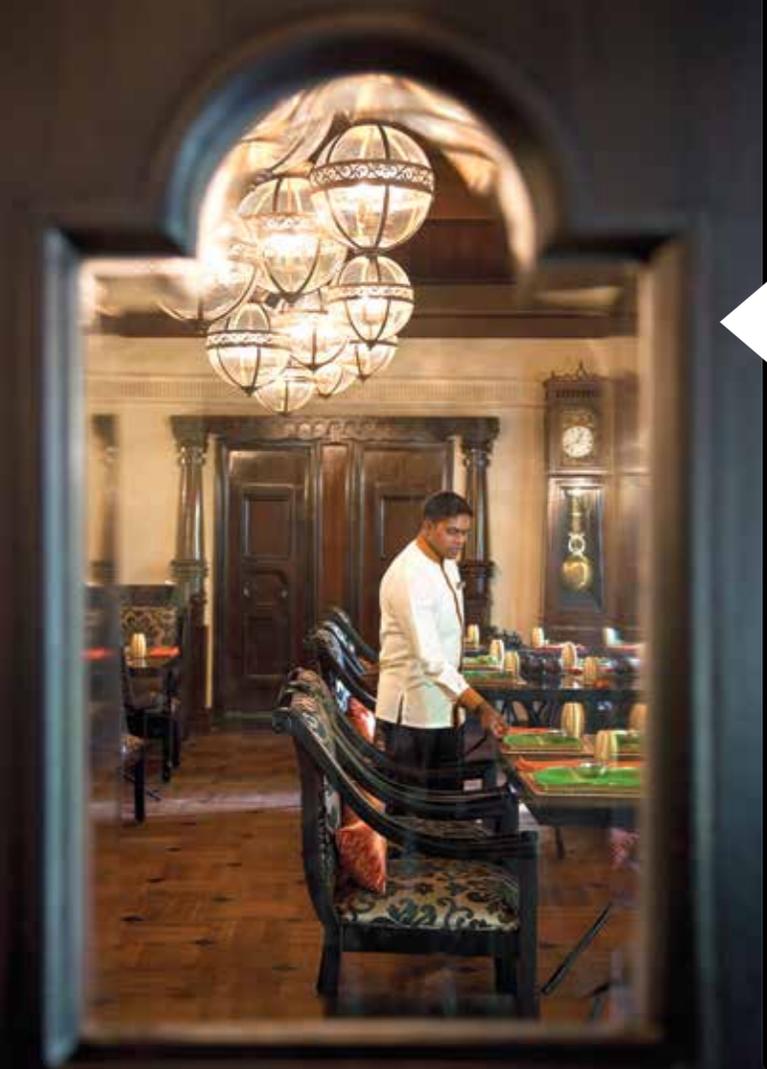
Getting there: Jet Airways operates daily flights to Mumbai from several cities in India.

Photographs courtesy of the hotels

THE APPOINTMENT

TODAY, BUSINESS MEETINGS ARE INCREASINGLY BEING TAKEN OUT OF STAID CONFERENCE ROOMS AND INTO VIBRANT, REFRESHING COFFEE SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS. IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOME IDEAS, HERE'S A MENU COMPRISING SIX HANDPICKED RESTAURANTS FROM INDIA THAT CATER WELL TO THE BUSINESS TRAVELLER.





KARAVALLI, THE GATEWAY HOTEL, BENGALURU

Twenty six years on, Karavalli continues to charm its visitors, both national and international. The decor resembles a traditional Mangalorean mansion – two large tamarind trees loom over the building while the tables are arranged amidst trees and waterfalls. You can choose to conduct a meeting in a well-equipped boardroom or in the garden with a view, and be rest assured that the services offered will make an impression that lasts.

Adding to the authenticity of the experience are little details such as the use of brass *chembus* (a container with a heavy bottom and tapered neck) for serving sambhar and black stoneware for Calicut meen (fish) biryani. The highlight for an informal business meeting is its Tiffin – a quick meal option presented in brass metal carriers, serving a variety of dishes off the menu.

Introduce your International clients to South Indian culture and cuisine through this experience.

Deal clinchers: Aulmin Mirsang Fry, Nagli Ambat, Tamarind Ice Cream

Getting there: Jet Airways operates daily flights to Bengaluru from several cities in India.

UMAMI, VIVANTA BY TAJ, GUWAHATI

This hotel was launched to serve an increasing number of business travellers flocking to the North East, Guwahati being an important base in the region. Umami, the Japanese word for a ‘pleasant and savoury taste’, is the torchbearer of oriental cuisine in the city. Sample sushi, teriyaki, katsu and Sichuan cuisine in an eclectic setting. An independent area within the premises, the formal convention space includes the impressive Joysagar and Rudrasagar halls – more than 10,000 sq. ft in size – consisting of large pillarless spaces and smaller meeting rooms. Seated amid high ceilings, kimono graphics, and marble architecture, enjoy a menu that fuses Northeast Indian and oriental flavours.

Deal clinchers: Peking Duck, Mapo Tofu, Hathikuli Green Tea Crème Brûlée

Getting there: Jet Airways operates daily flights to Guwahati from Indian cities such as Mumbai, Bengaluru, New Delhi, Kolkata, Jorhat and Silchar.





TIMPANI, THE RADISSON BLU, AHMEDABAD

Located close to the business areas of CG Road and Ashram Road and a five-minute drive away from Gujarat University Convention and Exhibition Centre and the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Timpani has one of the most enviable locations in the city. It is perfect for a meeting over breakfast or a business lunch with a myriad cuisines on offer in buffet style and a la carte. With live food counters, private sitting rooms, strong Wi-Fi and networking tables, it is the preferred choice of business travellers in the city.

The ambience is modern and slick. Hosting a meeting here could help create a good impression on your business associates.

Deal clinchers: Homestyle Lamb Curry, Burmese Vegetable Parcels, Lemon and Berry Tart

Getting there: Jet Airways operates daily flights to Ahmedabad from Mumbai and New Delhi.



THE QUBE, THE LEELA PALACE, NEW DELHI

The Leela Palace is located within 20 minutes of the domestic and T3 terminals of New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport. Its all-day diner, The Qube, boasts contemporary design, a relaxed ambience and delectable flavours.

Designed like a glasshouse, the restaurant serves gastronomic goodness from across the globe. The restaurant has an al fresco feel about it and at the same time, offers cool comforts. Adding to the experience of dining here is watching the chefs at work at their live stations, creating exotic dishes. It is perfect for a quiet breakfast buffet meeting or a power lunch.

Some of the dishes on the menu include Asian wok-fried specialities, Goat's Cheese and Arugula Salad, and Hainanese Chicken Rice. Each dish is prepared creatively to offer the diners a unique culinary experience.

Besides Qube, Le Cirque, the Italian fine dining restaurant, offers meeting facilities too.

Deal clinchers: Mexican Sarrandeado Chilli Glazed Red Snapper, Mee Goreng Vegetaria, Nizammi Tarkari Biryani, Maryland Crab Cakes

Getting there: Jet Airways operates daily flights to New Delhi from various Indian cities.



BUZZ, THE GATEWAY HOTEL, CHENNAI

Located in OMR, the IT hub of Chennai, Buzz provides respite to the weary business traveller. In addition to the usual gourmet food, one finds on its menu Thanjavur Virundhu – a special hand-crafted homestyle Tanjore feast from the land of the Cholas. At its heart are delicacies prepared to make the guest feel at home. Enjoy a relaxed meal with your associates by the hotel's poolside and even gorge on super foods from their Active Food menu.

Deal clinchers: Chennai Meen Varuval, Baked Cannelloni, Saffron Rasmalai

Getting there: Jet Airways operates daily flights to Chennai from several cities in India.



Bagging an important project or deal takes a huge amount of research, hard work and right timing. Likewise, choosing the right meeting place just goes to show that you put that extra thought into making the appointment a success – a subtle indication of your choice and personality. Dine your way to that all-important deal! ■