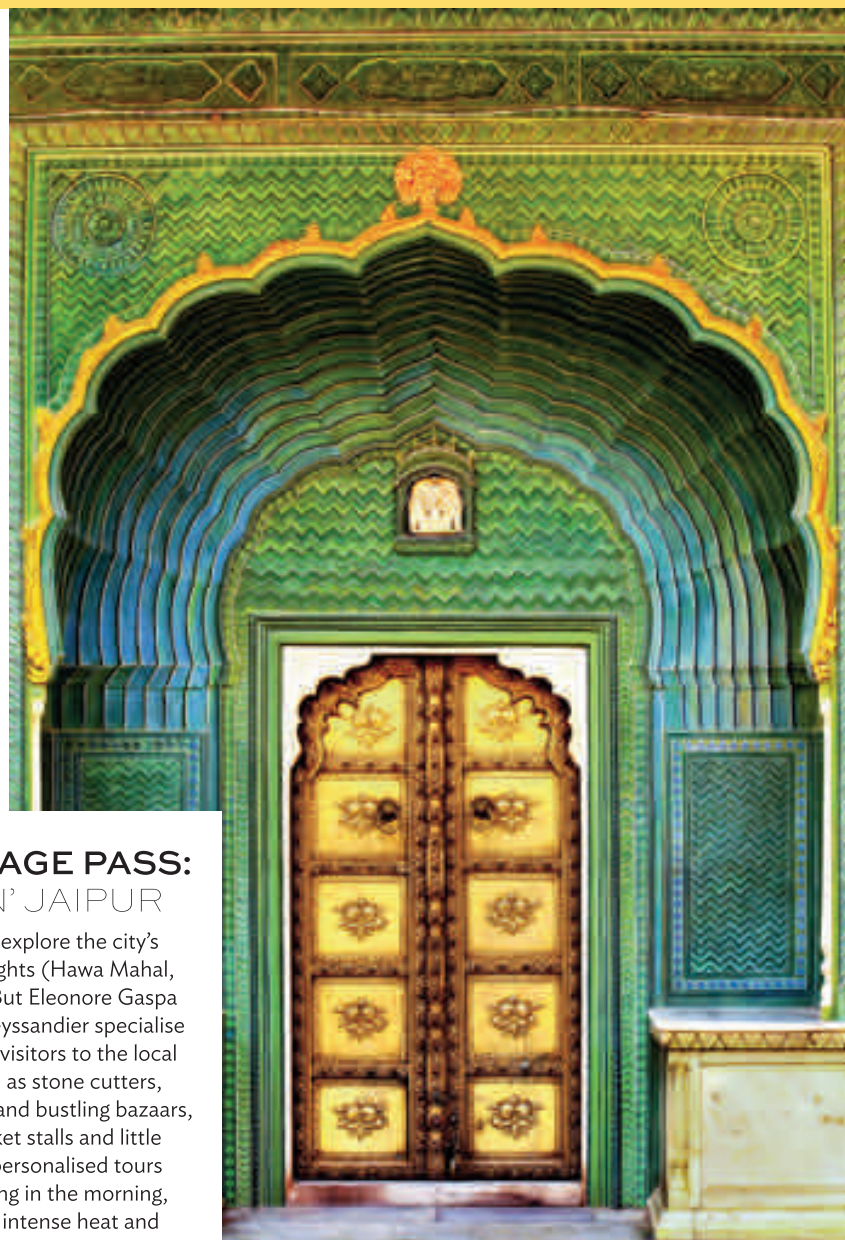


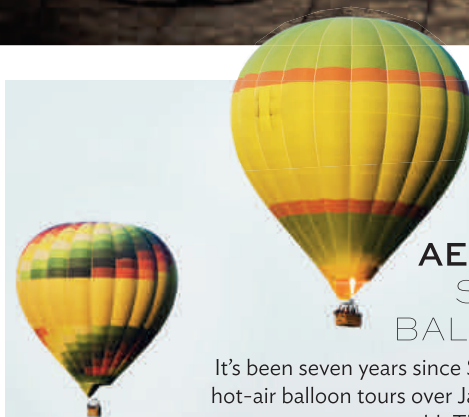
# PACK YOUR TRUNK

Jaipur is trippy-coloured and deeply fantastical. Charlotte Tottenham reveals what's hot in the city



## BACKSTAGE PASS: CYCLIN' JAIPUR

Anyone can explore the city's well-known sights (Hawa Mahal, City Palace). But Eleonore Gaspa and Ophélie Teyssandier specialise in introducing visitors to the local artisans such as stone cutters, carpet weavers and bustling bazaars, havelis, market stalls and little nooks. The personalised tours begin first thing in the morning, avoiding the intense heat and traffic, followed by a well-earned street-food breakfast of sweet *kachori* pastries and chai. [cyclinjaipur.com](http://cyclinjaipur.com)



## AERIAL VIEWS: SKY WALTZ BALLOON SAFARI

It's been seven years since Sky Waltz started running hot-air balloon tours over Jaipur, but the novelty of it never seems to grow old. This is a very special way to get your bearings and take in the sea of palaces, forts and winding streets of the old town. [skywaltz.com](http://skywaltz.com)

62 Condé Nast Traveller March 2016



PHOTOGRAPHS: STEVE MCCURRY/MAGNUM PHOTOS; NITIN PRABHudesai; JOSE RODRIGUES; SHUTTERSTOCK



## STYLE FILE

### RURAL STAY: MOSAIC'S GUESTHOUSE

Colour, flavour and style are what owner and French artist Hervé Vital delivers at this four-bedroom B&B in Amber village near Amber Fort, right. It's a welcome countryside escape from the cacophony of Jaipur, but the real reason to make your way here is to see Vital's extraordinary frescos in the garden and on the terraces (his studio is also open to the public). The menu includes a robust mix of Provençal and Rajasthani dishes. Expect proper coffee (hard to come by in India) and a wide variety of puddings such as sugary crêpes and creamy custards. *Doubles from about £35.*  
[mosaicsguesthouse.com](http://mosaicsguesthouse.com)

### BRING BACK: ANDRAAB

In a city overrun with shops and stalls selling pashminas, Andraab is definitely the best in town, offering traditional to contemporary styles. Greetings of a reverent *namaste* and a glass of sweet *kahwa* (traditional Kashmiri tea) make the experience all the more lovely. [andraab.com](http://andraab.com)

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN THOMAS

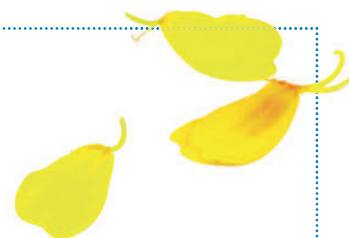




## FASHION FIX: KALEE

The city's latest concept store takes its name from the goddess Kali, who symbolises empowerment. Run by sisters Ritu and Ruchi, Kalee stocks a curious mix of traditional and contemporary womenswear: vintage Lennon-style sunglasses from Go Spiff sit alongside ornate yellow-gold jewellery by Deepa Sethi. Rituja Singh's embroidered ombre tunics are matched with Ruchi's own punk-inspired Crazy Heart pieces. It is an eclectic edit that shouldn't work but does so brilliantly, underpinned by vibrant colours and very obviously curated by women for women.

[facebook.com/kaleejaipur](https://facebook.com/kaleejaipur)



## FESTIVAL FOCUS: GANGAUR

Head to Galtaji temple during the spring celebration in honour of the Hindu goddess of abundance. Carved into rocks on the edge of the city, the pilgrimage site is overlooked by most visitors, but on 9 April this year you can sit and watch women in a rainbow of silk saris gather to worship under a bright blue sky, with children running about chasing picnics that have been pinched by mischievous monkeys.





## DESIGN HIT:

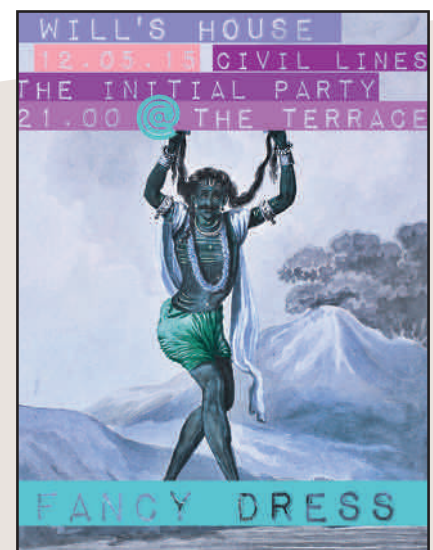
### IDLI

Housed within the walls of Narain Niwas Palace, Thierry Journo's interiors shop also stocks clothes for men and women. The French designer has spent years travelling between Paris and India sourcing inspiration, which translates into minimal, pared-back designs in artfully clashing colours and prints. His tie-dye cushion covers and handmade paper lamps are especially covetable. [idlidesign.com](http://idlidesign.com)

## LOCAL STAR: PEARL PALACE HERITAGE

Serving as a backdrop to many scenes in *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, this family-run hotel remains pure theatre. It's an ongoing labour of love for hugely popular owner Mr Singh (always seen in a different colour turban), who has written his own Jaipur guide that is given to all guests. No two rooms are the same and each one represents the heritage of a different Indian city.

Doubles from about £35. [pearlpalaceheritage.com](http://pearlpalaceheritage.com)



## HOT TICKET: WILL'S HOUSE

The cultural director of flamboyant Bar Palladio, Will Mulford, is equally known for hosting wild fancy-dress parties in his own home each month – get him to make you a spiced-rum punch (or a bhang lassi if you dare). With everything from classical music to electronica, vintage saris to Seventies disco flare, and often with as many nationalities as there are guests, this is the most sought-after invitation in town. [bar-palladio.com](http://bar-palladio.com)