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# Hotel Vagabond

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Telegraph expert  
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" Set in an art deco shop house with original red shutters, Hotel Vagabond brings a piece of luxury-drench Parisian charm to the quietly seedy street of Syed Alwi Street. "

Rooms from

£104 per night

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By Evelyn Chen, SINGAPORE EXPERT

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## Location

Syed Alwi Street resides on the fringe of Little India and Kampong Glam. The nearest MRT stations are Lavender and Bugis, both about 20 to 25 minutes walk from the hotel. Little India's ultra-buzzy Mustafa Centre is accessed on foot via a leisurely 15-minute walk past shop houses. Both Orchard Road and Marina Bay Sands are no more than a 15 to 20-minute ride on the cab.

8/10

## Style & character

Once you get past the entrance, you are teleported into a sultry, red-swathed Parisian-inspired Vagabond Salon dressed in luxurious red velvet drapes. Designed with art in mind, interior designer and architect Jacques Garcia (who also designed Hotel Costes in Paris and Hotel Danieli in Venice) has fashioned a lobby-cum-events space - that also integrates a restaurant (5th Quarter) and bar (Bar Vagabond) - surrounded by specially commissioned art pieces. There are 6 gold leafed “Banyan trees” that rise up dramatically from the wooden floor to decorate the ceiling, a Lalane-inspired Rhino reception desk in gold and a Franck Le Ray-designed golden baboon at the bar. The space serves as the nucleus of the hotel where guests relax and interact with a rotating list of artist in residence (a Dutch DJ was in residence during our visit, although we had completely no interaction with him when we had drinks at the bar).



## Service & facilities

Facilities are kept to a bare minimum to fit in with the layout of the heritage shop house (there isn't even a swimming pool or gym here). Service is friendly, courteous and prompt but never over-bearing. Having said that, the hotel omitted to provide turndown service for our room.

- ✓ Bar
- ✓ Laundry
- ✓ Restaurant
- ✓ Room service
- ✓ Wi-Fi

## Rooms

All 42 rooms and suites have a slightly different layout with views of either Syed Alwi Road or the surrounding buildings. Standard features include wooden flooring, wooden headboard, plush furnishings in purple hue and the most comfortable bed blanketed in Italian-made Egyptian cotton, with an awkwardly-designed wooden screen decorated in floral motif separating the living area from the bathroom (the screen's beautiful but not functional as it kept knocking into the bathroom door). There are 4 categories of rooms: Classic (with and without terrace), Deluxe (with and without terrace), a pair of windowless Mini Suites tucked in the attic and a Vagabond Suite. All

the rooms come with a Nespresso coffee machine, in-house bath amenities and complimentary Wi-Fi. Toothbrushes and water are only available upon request.



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## Food & drink

There is only 1 restaurant and 1 bar in the property. 5<sup>th</sup> quarter is a meats-centric restaurant helmed by Drew Nocente, an Australian who cures his own charcuterie. For breakfast, Nocente serves a limited but solid western menu (try full house, which features eggs, sausage, portobello mushroom and home made maple syrup-brushed bacon) and for dinner, the menu features standouts like lardo and smoky chargrilled beef shortrib. For aperitif or digestif, Vagabond Bar offers some of the most delicious cocktails this part of town. If you're looking for street food options, the famed Sungei Road Laksa (circa 1956) is a quick 3-minutes away. Or walk 5 minutes to the Jalan Berseh Food Market for more options (try the chives kueh from One Kueh At A Time).

## Value for money

231 Singapore dollars (£107) per room per night. This includes complimentary access to high speed Wi-Fi but not breakfast.

## Access for guests with disabilities?

There is one room that is accessible by wheelchair. The room's bathroom is also wheelchair accessible with railings for added assistance.

## Family-friendly?

Nothing in particular. The Vagabond Suite comes with a sofa bed to provide ample space for children.

📍 39 Syed Alwi Road, 207630 Singapore.

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hotelvagabondsingapore.com



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