

HOMED & DECOR

SINGAPORE

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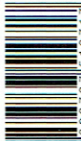
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HOTEL VAGABOND

A LUXURY
BOUTIQUE
HOTEL LOCATED
BETWEEN
LITTLE INDIA AND
KAMPONG GLAM

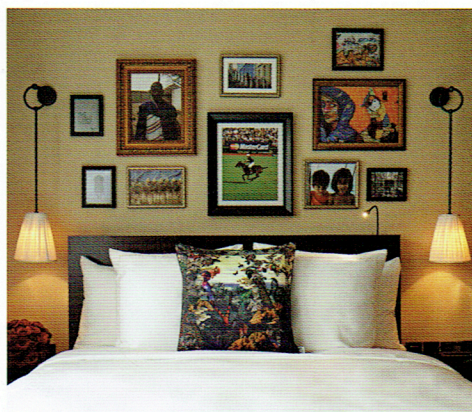
The interiors of Hotel Vagabond stand out, and in a good way. Its life-size wildlife sculptures in gold are set off by a plush velvety red interior, conjuring an opulent, almost decadent ambience the moment you step into the lobby, known as The Salon. A gold monkey looks over the hotel's bar and two captive elephants appear to be holding up the elevator.

"I wanted to create a heady and intoxicating atmosphere," explains Satinder Garcha, the founder of Garcha Hotels, which Hotel Vagabond is a member of. The hotel, which opened in September last

year, is housed in a heritage building. The word "vagabond" brings to mind an idea of exploration and a thirst for new experiences, which is what Satinder wanted to create for his guests.

To achieve this vision, he engaged famed French designer Jacques Garcia to work on the establishment's interiors. Jacques is also known for designing Hotel Costes in Paris and Nomad in New York.

His vivid imagination spawned the presence of a menagerie of "animals", some of which were custom-made by French artist Frank Le Ray. There is



also a golden brass banyan tree in The Salon and a rhinoceros that serves as an unconventional reception desk – both constructed by the Allah Buksh family in Rajasthan, India, who have been making armoury for Rajasthan royalty for generations.

The designer also introduced baroque-style furniture, and vintage-looking floral fabric in the guest rooms. Framed artworks adorn almost every wall of the hotel, from the lobby area and bar, all the way up to the individual rooms. This alludes to Satinder's passion for collecting

art – the owner chose all the pieces himself.

There might be high drama in the lobby, but the rooms in the hotel are dressed in a lighter colour scheme and have a more cosy atmosphere, featuring plush goose-down pillows and silky-smooth Egyptian cotton sheets. Among the pieces of art on the walls are Satinder's family pictures. He believes that having such images in the rooms further enhances the feeling of home for his guests. ●



HOTEL VAGABOND IS LOCATED ON 39 SYED ALWI ROAD, TEL: 6291-6677.



Walk through this fascinating hotel in our video, only on the digital edition. See page 14.

LEFT
The bathroom doors of this guest room sport fabric panels with floral designs.

LEFT, BELOW
The homeliness of the rooms in Hotel Vagabond can be attributed to the collage of artworks and family pictures on the walls.

BOTTOM LEFT
The hotel is housed in a heritage shophouse in the Arab street area.

(OPPOSITE) LEFT
The handcrafted banyan tree in The Salon is incredibly detailed, with engraved veins on the leaves to resemble real ones.

RIGHT
The gold elephants by French artist Frank Le Ray seem to be holding up the elevator in the lobby.

BOTTOM
Meet La Mona, the monkey sculpture lovingly named by Satinder Garcha and his staff, which sits looking over Bar Vagabond.