



Suite Spot: Hotel Vagabond, Singapore

By **Jeanne Cooper**, San Francisco Chronicle Updated 4:19 pm, Tuesday, May 31, 2016



Photo: Hotel Vagabond



IMAGE 1 OF 4

The salon at Hotel Vagabond in Singapore will host artists and musicians during afternoon tea and evening cocktails.

Given that it takes more than 15 hours to fly to Singapore nonstop from San Francisco — and longer from anywhere else on the U.S. mainland, due to connecting flights — travelers may appreciate the city-state’s particularly plush places to recover from jet lag. Among the newest is Hotel Vagabond, an art-filled oasis that’s also the first in the Garcha Hotels luxury collection, created by former Silicon Valley dot-com entrepreneur Satinder Garcha.

Setting: The 41-room boutique hotel, a Parisian-inspired transformation of a 1950 retail building, lies between Little India and Kampong Glam, two historic districts. It’s also a short taxi ride to Chinatown, Marina Bay attractions, Raffles Place and the Central Business District.

The appeal: The first hotel in Asia designed by noted French designer **Jacques Garcia**, Hotel Vagabond cultivates East-meets-West engagement through its locale and ambience. Elaborate banyan trees and other brass sculptures gleam amid the red velvet curtains in the 5,000-square-foot central salon, home

to a bar serving craft cocktails and an artist-in-residence program for visual artists and musicians. Garcha's own travel photos line the colorful, comfortable guest rooms.

Insider tip: Don't miss the complimentary afternoon tea service at 4 p.m., dubbed Lady **Boss Tea**, after the hotel's general manager. Australian chef Drew Nocente, known for his charcuterie, operates 5th Quarter restaurant in the hotel lobby; Vagabond's signature restaurant, Sexy Indian, is scheduled to open in August.

Good to know: Book a deluxe room or suite if traveling with bulky suitcases, since classic rooms are on the small side. Stays through July 31 receive free airport pickup or drop-off when reserved directly through the hotel.

Details: 39 **Syed Alwi** Road, Singapore. (011) 65 6291 6677, www.hotelvagabondsingapore.com Rooms from \$187, suites from \$281.

Also consider: Capella Singapore, a former British colonial retreat on Sentosa Island, www.capellahotels.com/singapore; the luxurious, all-suites national landmark Raffles Singapore, www.raffles.com/singapore; the Vegas-style, high-rise casino hotel of Marina Bay Sands, www.marinabaysands.com; or, opening in fall 2016, the Patina, Capitol Singapore, an adaptation of two historic buildings into a hotel, residential and retail complex, <http://patinahotels.com/singapore>.

—*Jeanne Cooper*

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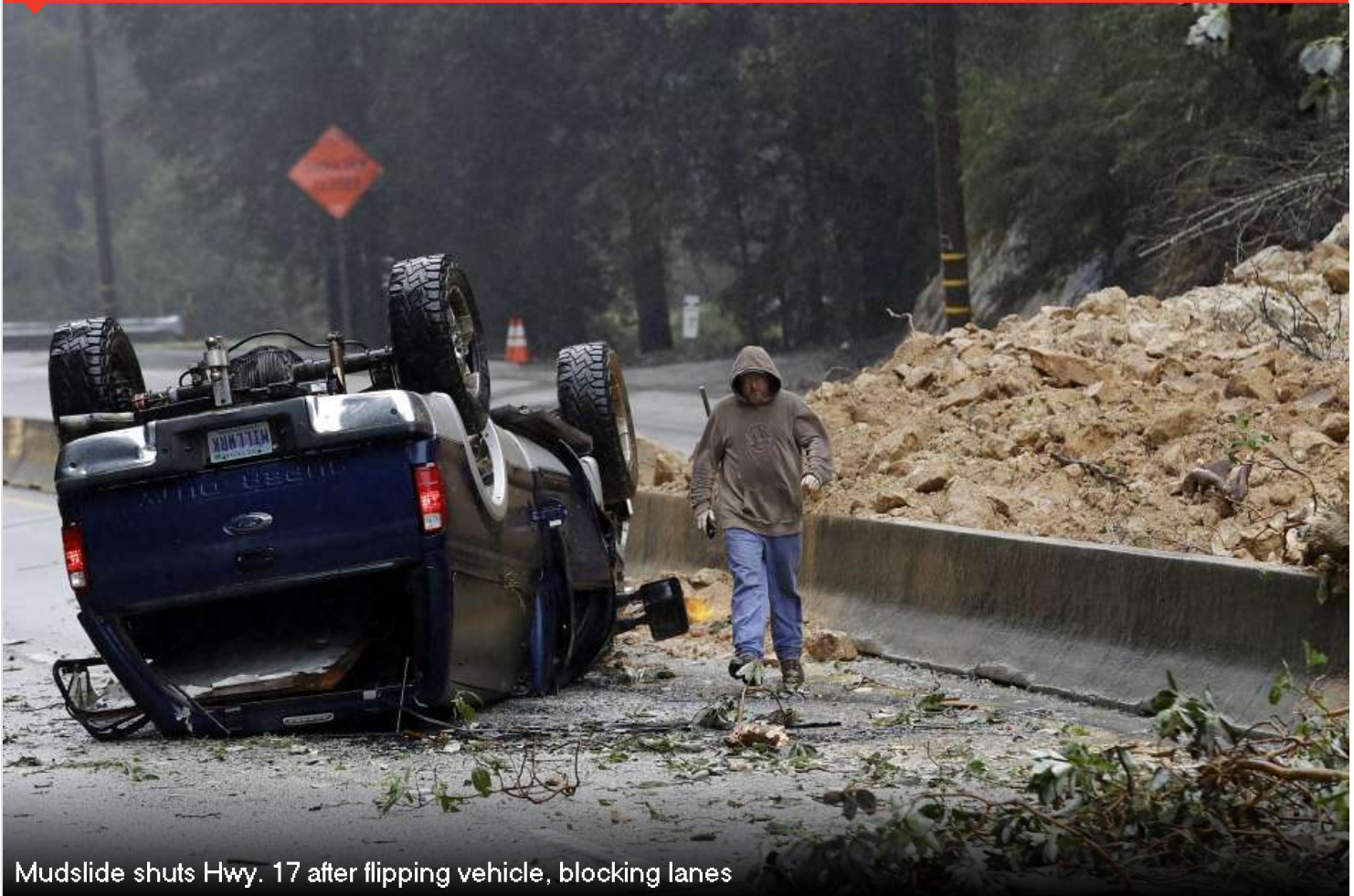


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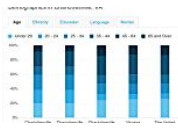


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