

REVIEW: 4 cool design hotels in Singapore to check in to during the September holidays

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A wealth of exciting design hotels can be found in Singapore. The **SILVERKRIS TEAM** checks in to Hotel Indigo, M Social Singapore, Hotel Vagabond and W Sentosa find out if they live up to the hype.

Hotel Vagabond



A receptionist pops up cheerily from behind a golden rhinoceros desk (above). "Welcome to [Hotel Vagabond!](#)" Also sharing the space is a hulking elephant sculpture alongside a golden banyan tree with branches and leaves spread across the ceiling, and a gilded monkey reposed on the bar – set against a backdrop of crimson settees and thick red velvet curtains.

The lobby merges seamlessly into what the hotel calls the Vagabond Salon – a Parisian style restaurant/bar that hosts musicians and other performers in residence. Classic films are screened here on Saturday afternoons. I imagine it'd be a good place to mingle, cocktail in hand. I experience a different sort of social affair here – complimentary afternoon tea, served daily. The spread's substantial – pastries, sandwiches, French press coffee and local TWG teas – and it's also a great way to meet other guests.



With so much going on downstairs, I almost forget to make my way to my room (above), which is adorned with framed photographs of faraway locales. I later learn that these are personal mementos from the hotelier's travels.

Overall, the space is cosy but well arrayed so I don't feel claustrophobic. The minibar is neatly ensconced in the wardrobe, and the bathroom has a large sink and decent-size shower stall. Luxurious touches include cut crystal glassware in the mini bar, and Etro toiletries in the bathroom. But my favourite item is the retro-chic Roberts radio that can stream music from my smartphone via Bluetooth technology.

Also provided, are three foldout maps of neighbourhoods around the hotel – Kampong Glam, Rochor Canal & Beach Road, and Little India – showing nearby eateries and attractions. Between the socialising in the lobby and exploring the neighbourhoods, I'm well occupied. After a good night's rest, I enjoy a decadent breakfast of French toast with bacon, freshly prepared upon order.

- OLIVIA LIM

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