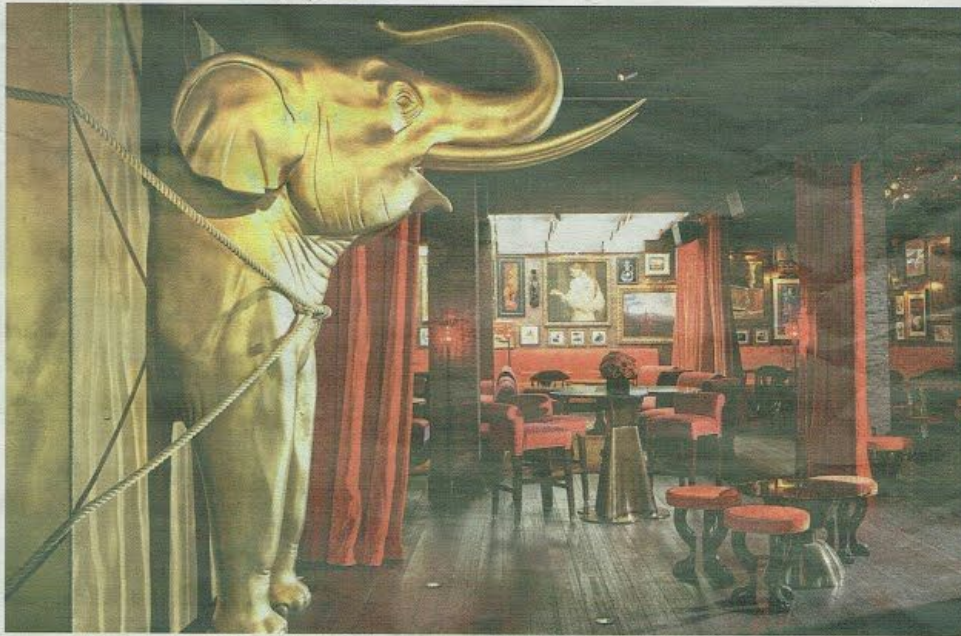


Hotel Vagabond

media coverage table

Media Outlet:	Business Times Weekend
Date:	31 October 2015
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Readership:	77,000



LUXURIOUS GETAWAY

Hotel Vagabond

39 Syed Alwi Road ☎ 6291-6677
www.hotelvagabondsingapore.com

HOTEL VAGABOND is not for the faint-hearted. Step into its lobby and you are immediately greeted by, yes, an elephant – a life-sized sculpture bathed in gold paint. The check-in reception desk is not a conventional desk either, but one made of solid brass shaped like a rhino.

In place of pillars there are golden brass banyan trees in the salon area and a life-sized monkey sculpture at the centre of the hotel bar.

Hotel Vagabond is clearly not your run-of-the-mill hotel. Opened early this month, the hotel located at Syed Alwi Road is part of Garcha Hotels, a new luxury hotel collection by Indian-born luxury real estate developer and boutique hotelier Satinder Garcha. There will be another three Garcha Hotels in Singapore and Santiago over the next two years.

Hotel Vagabond is the first and only hotel in Asia to feature interiors by the celebrated French designer Jacques Garcia, known for other hotels such as Hotel Costes in Paris, and the Nomad in New York.

Much work went into creating the animals and the banyan trees in the hotel's public areas. For example, the solid brass rhino desk took eight months to create.

The family who made it have been making armoury for the Rajasthani royal families for generations.

The elephant and the monkey are made by French artist Franck Le Ray, while the pillars were transformed into golden brass banyan trees through delicate metalwork created using centuries-old artisanal techniques.

Hotel Vagabond is believed to also be the only hotel of its kind in Singapore to offer a rotational Artist in Residence programme. With an emphasis on writing, photography and performance art of all kinds, artists will be invited to apply for residencies of up to three months.

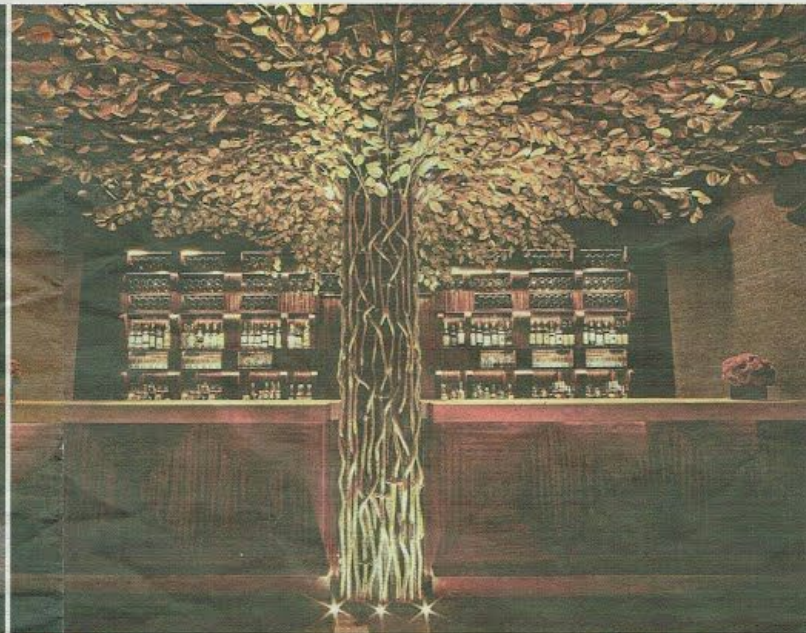
That aside, art features strongly in the hotel, judging by the exquisite pieces adorning the walls. Even the hotel lift is not spared.

On a lift wall, there's a video art installation by Marco Brambilla, a Milan-born, New York City-based video collage and installation artist, known for his elaborate re-contextualisation of popular imagery. Snippets from various movies are played in this video art, and guests are known to have taken the lift just to catch it.

As with its public spaces, the decor in the 42 rooms is bold. Think carpets and furnishings awash in shades of deep reds and purples. A distinctive feature in the rooms are its handpainted floral fabric panels which act as dividers.

Hotel owner Garcha adds his personal touches to the rooms, where the walls are adorned with photographs, from snapshots taken by him of his international polo team wins to vignettes of his travels around the world.

Room rates start from S\$300 per night.



LUXE SAFARI

The elephant (far left) and the monkey (below, far left) are made by French artist Franck Le Ray, while the pillars (left) were transformed into golden brass banyan trees through delicate metalwork created using centuries-old artisanal techniques.

PHOTOS: HOTEL VAGABOND



GILT EDGE

From gilded animals and pillars covered in gold leaf to ornate rooms and hideaways, Hotel Vagabond offers a visual escape from the tried and tested look of most boutique hotels. PHOTOS:

HOTEL VAGABOND

