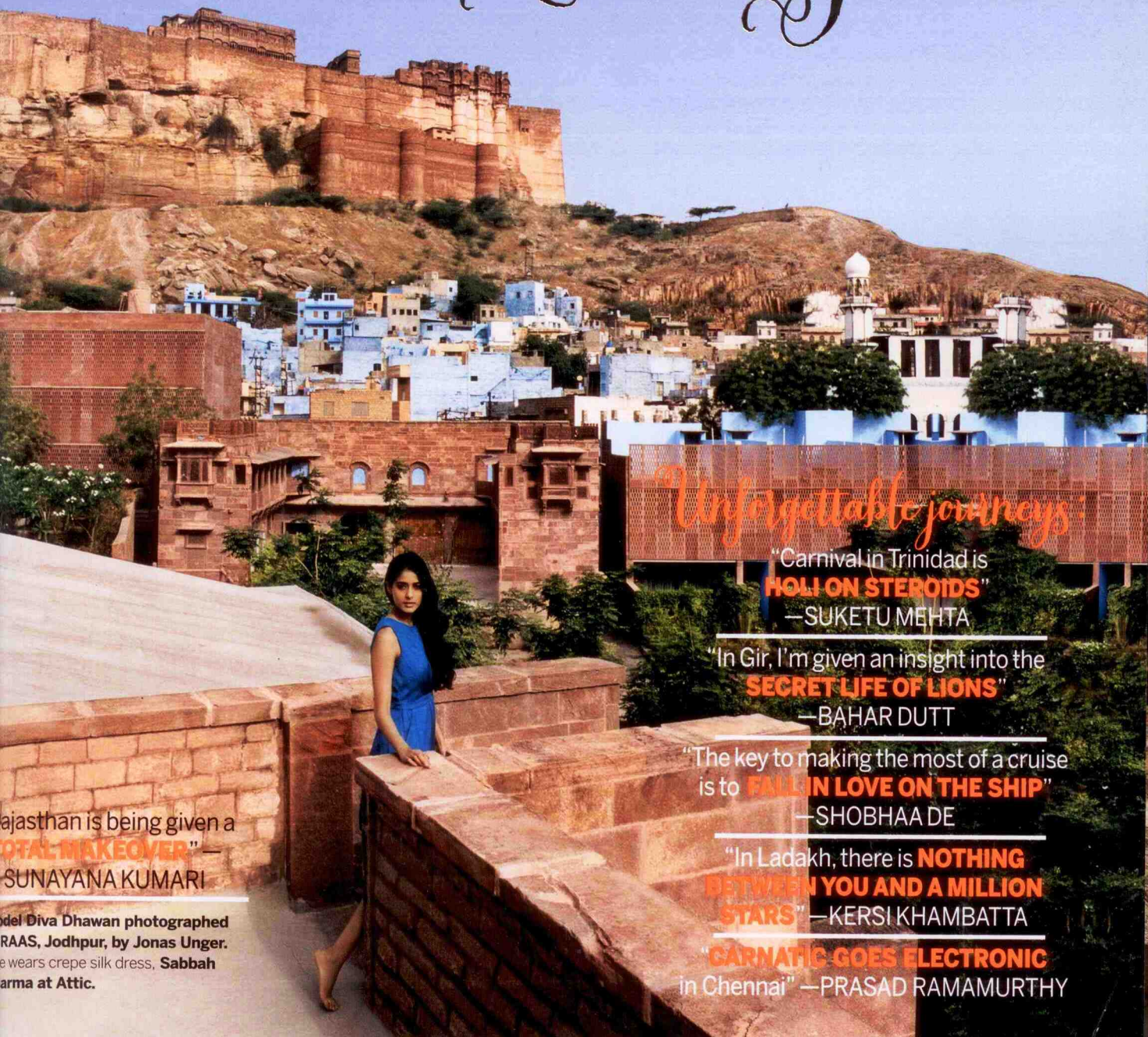


Condé Nast Traveller

India Special



Unforgettable journeys:

"Carnival in Trinidad is
HOLI ON STEROIDS"
—SUKETU MEHTA

"In Gir, I'm given an insight into the
SECRET LIFE OF LIONS"
—BAHAR DUTT

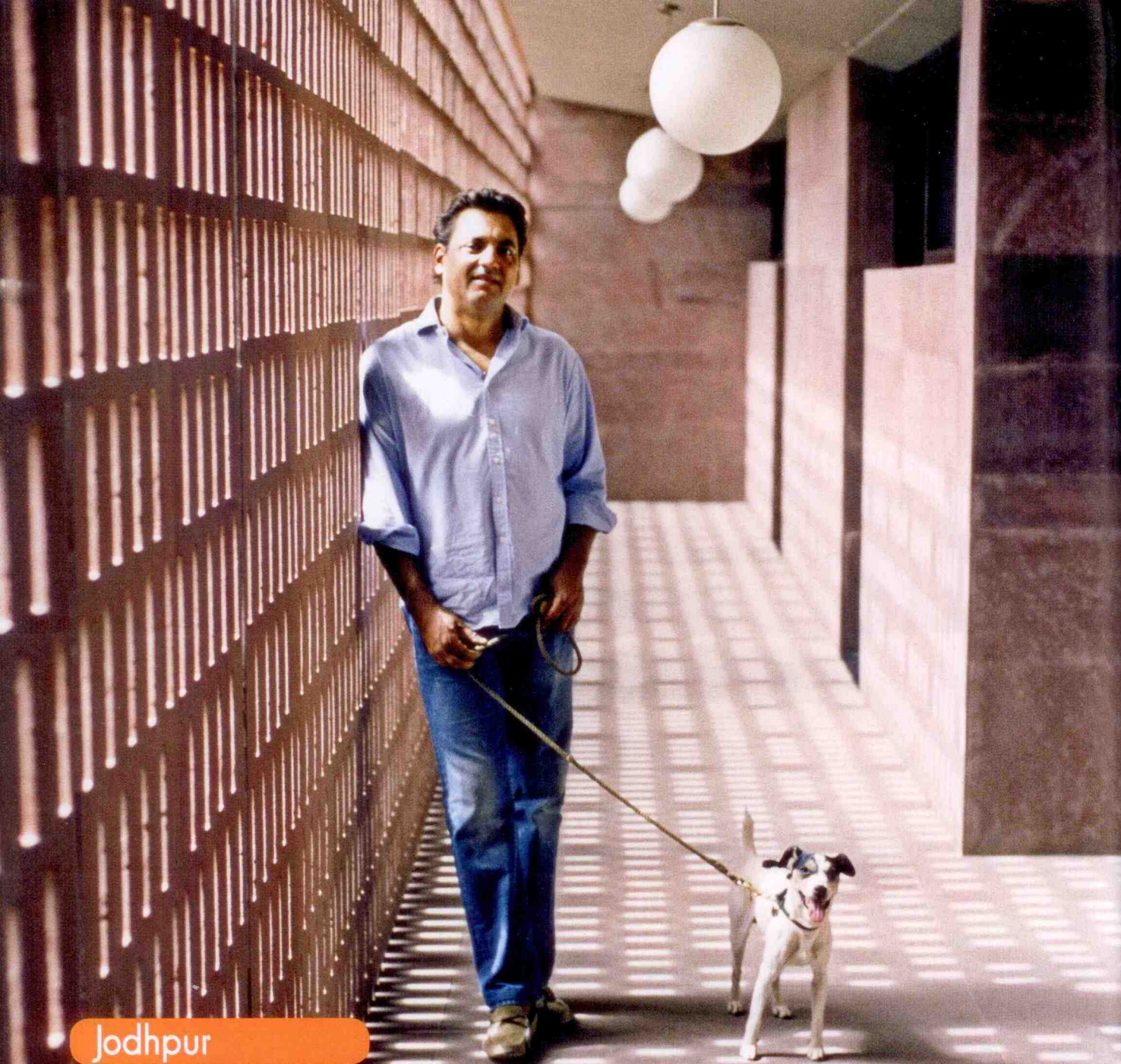
"The key to making the most of a cruise
is to **FALL IN LOVE ON THE SHIP**"
—SHOBHAA DE

"In Ladakh, there is **NOTHING
BETWEEN YOU AND A MILLION
STARS**" —KERSI KHAMBATTA

"**CARNATIC GOES ELECTRONIC**
in Chennai" —PRASAD RAMAMURTHY

Rajasthan is being given a
TOTAL MAKEOVER" —
SUNAYANA KUMARI

Model Diva Dhawan photographed
in RAAS, Jodhpur, by Jonas Unger.
She wears crepe silk dress, Sabbah
earrings and jewelry at Attic.



Jodhpur

RAAS: Hospitality 2.0

A stay at RAAS is a study in the evolution of Indian hospitality—a shift from the excessive to the optimal. Here, overbearing staff and OTT interiors have given way to unobtrusive service and subdued, modern décor. Though located at the foot of Mehrangarh Fort in the frenetic city of Jodhpur, the plate-glass lobby gives an instant feeling of detachment and calm. Its sleek sandstone and latticework construction pays homage to the city's architecture while remaining cool and contemporary, and music at its restaurant, Vajra, is always set at a volume conducive to conversation. This is all reflective of Nikhilendra Singh's refined sense of hospitality: "The idea is to ensure that the hotel feels discreet and not overbearing—a belief I've cultivated from my own experiences," he explains.

Raghavendra Rathore: Redefining Indian fashion

Jodhpur's best-known face is also among its most loyal. Rathore, who's the grandson of Maharaja Ajit Singh, has single-handedly turned the Rajasthani attire of bandhgala and jodhpurs into a worldwide fashion phenomenon. He retails in New Delhi and Mumbai and shows at Lakmé Fashion Week, while celebrities like Amitabh Bachchan and Saif Ali Khan don his creations for their most important red-carpet events. Of his new summer travel collection for 2012, Rathore says, "The Indian man's wardrobe gets a global revision." In this fusion of the traditional and the contemporary, modern waistcoats replace bandhgalas, while fabrics like brocade allude to Rajasthan's past.

A stay at RAAS is a study in the evolution
of Indian hospitality—a shift from the
excessive to the optimal



RAAS and the surrounding
city of Jodhpur, as seen from
Mehrangarh Fort. Opposite:
Nikhilendra Singh, of RAAS.
Right: Model Diva Dhawan by
the pool at RAAS,



JAIPUR

Getting there

Fly to Jaipur, Jodhpur or Udaipur with **Jet Airways** (www.jetairways.com) or **Air India** (www.airindia.com) from Mumbai and New Delhi.

WHERE TO STAY

Devi Ratn

This hotel combines stunning architecture with modern facilities. (www.deviresorts.in)
Doubles from ₹12,570

The Farm

Retreat to this boutique art hotel, 25 minutes outside Jaipur. (<http://thefarmjaipur.com>)
Doubles from ₹10,000

Jaipur Marriott Hotel

For easy access to local attractions, stay at this hotel in the city centre. (www.marriott.com)
Doubles from ₹6,000

WHAT TO DO

Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum

This museum showcases the art and culture of Jaipur. (<http://mmsmuseum.com>)

Rajputana Customs

Order a custom-built bike at this niche motorcycle outfit. (<http://rajputanacustoms.com>) Prices start from ₹80,000

Sky Waltz

Enjoy a hot-air balloon ride over Amber Fort with this adventure company. (www.skywaltz.com) From ₹13,250 per person

Greaves India

Take a private plane excursion to any destination with an airstrip in India. (www.greavesindia.com) From ₹22,090 per person

Shakti School of Dance

Learn Colleen Shakti's

self-styled dance form at this Pushkar dance academy. (www.colleenashakti.com)

RANTHAMBORE

Ranthambore is a two-hour drive from Jaipur.

WHERE TO STAY

Sher Bagh

Each luxury tent has a private veranda that overlooks lush gardens. (www.sujanluxury.com)
Doubles from ₹28,750

WHAT TO DO

Safari

Go on a wildlife safari at Ranthambore National Park. Your hotel will take care of permissions and guides. Opening hours are from 6am-8am and 4pm-6pm.

Tiger Watch

Visit the office of this NGO to better understand tiger conservation. (www.tigerwatch.net)

UDAIPUR

WHERE TO STAY

Taj Lake Palace

This heritage property is perched on Udaipur's scenic Lake Pichola. (www.tajhotels.com)
Doubles from ₹28,500

WHAT TO DO

Upré by 1559 AD

Reserve a table at this rooftop restaurant and bar on Lake Pichola for views of the city's skyline. (www.1559ad.com)

Noelle Kadar

For custom-built furniture, visit the designer's workshop. (www.noellekadar.com)

Delwara

Just 40 minutes from Udaipur, this village is rich in historical ruins. Like Megnaa Mehta, get involved in its development work with Seva Mandir. (www.sevamandir.org)

MOUNT ABU

Getting there

Mount Abu is a three-hour drive from Udaipur.

WHERE TO STAY

Palace Hotel Bikaner House

This chic property boasts landscaped gardens, a tennis court and an international restaurant. (www.palacehotelbikanerhouse.com)
Doubles from ₹6,500

WHAT TO DO

Sightseeing

Take in the sights of this hill station on a walk to local attractions like **Nakki Lake** and the **Delwara Temples**.

JODHPUR

WHERE TO STAY

RAAS

Situated at the foot of Mehrangarh Fort, this hotel has a pool, spa and two restaurants.

(<http://raasjodhpur.com>)
Doubles from ₹17,000

WHAT TO DO

Raghavendra Rathore

Fix an appointment with the designer to shop for custom-made waistcoats and jodhpurs. (www.rathore.com)

PALI

Getting there

Pali is a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Jodhpur.

WHERE TO STAY

Lakshman Sagar

Each of its 12 lakeside cottages comes with a splash pool. (<http://sewara.com>) From ₹16,000 per cottage

WHAT TO DO

Village walks

Guests can experience the local way of life by exploring nearby villages. The region is also home to partridges and peacocks.

