

ART-ITECTURE!

A global palette of artists have been a part of The Farm's Art Residency programme, not to mention the works that flood the resort's sprawling gallery space and its grounds, many sourced through Wolf—an experimental art collective created and headed by the owners.



Enjoy time by the pool at The Farm, Jaipur.

Home away From home

At The Farm in Jaipur, hedonism and creativity combine to create a sanctuary of pleasure. **Siddharth Dasgupta** dives right in.

The swami smoking marijuana seems perfectly still. As he should be, given that he's a sculpture and all. In early morning's dappled light, he appears perfectly at peace with himself, with the higher consciousness of intoxication, and with his surroundings. I can see where he's coming from. Here at **The Farm**, a fresh interpretation of luxury, beautiful strands of creation, and the unexpected joys of epiphany have all colluded to create something undeniably magical.

I'm on the outskirts of **Jaipur**, half an hour from the heart of the city, and this homestay has become an instant home. The pure air might have something to do with it, as might the feeling that I'm being immersed in an experience that's not everyday. In this most fabled of cities blessed with an abundance of extravagant palace hotels, stately *havelis* converted into addresses where myths of the past hover like ghosts, and boutique darlings packed with plenty of flair, The Farm has still managed to create and hold on to a space of its own.

I've arrived to a city flirting with that last kiss of a tumultuous monsoon. As a result, The Farm's nearly 16 acres of space are alive with green abundance. As I settle in for breakfast by the pool, I take stock of my surroundings: Amidst all the lushness stands this large elevated structure that forms the fulcrum of the resort—a dining space, an open kitchen, a serving gazebo, a swimming pool, a raised performance rectangle, and three of the property's five standalone bungalow rooms. Below and beyond me on the ground lie the suites, a gallery space brimming with art projects and books, and many surprising sculptural adventures.



The kitschy lanterns are pretty to look at.



The meditation area overlooks a pool and much greenery.

The Extras

- ▶ This is a great weekend escape for the family. The homestay offers a billiards table, a selection of books and world movies for all ages, in case you want to stay in.
- ▶ Employing the farm-to-table concept, The Farm has a small organic garden where your daily vegetables are sourced from; the menus are set but never boring. Here, you experience communal dining in the evenings, a great way to meet new people.

Inside a guestroom.



Ritu and Surya Singh halt my ruminations. Both Rajasthan natives, Ritu and Surya are the artist couple who have birthed and nourished this boutique art homestay overflowing with quirk and style. “We’re certainly not offering a hotel experience,” Ritu tells me over fresh fruit and scrambled eggs. “So that starched service, extensive menus, standard hotel lobbies—you won’t find any of that here. What you will find is a contemporary luxury homestay experience with art and a creative, laidback approach to life.”

She’s not kidding. The property and its many nooks serve as one giant canvas for the couple’s experimentations, with scrap-based installations, scrap collages, reclaimed décor, wood/metal inventions, and log furnishings taking on myriad forms.

While much of the artistry on view is endearingly rustic, the rooms and suites are anything but. The five colour-themed rooms are a crisp assemblage of style, heritage, and simplicity—both vintage and contemporary—opening out to spacious verandahs and back porches with sweeping views. The **Varanasi** and **Automobile** suites, meanwhile are treasure-troves of discovery and imagination, each draped in both luxury and an earthy ethic, resulting in experiences textured with the earth’s fragrances.

“What you will find here is a contemporary luxury homestay experience with a creative, laidback approach to life.”

“It’s about creating a playful vibe through avant garde design and a style philosophy rooted to the soil,” Ritu tells me. “We also plan to convert the villa rooms into a holistic recreation space and enlarge our suite collection from two to eight.”

I feel at home in my pastoral luxury homestay. I’m attuned to this bohemian approach to life. I’m at peace within this creative playground where you enjoy great food and wine, swim and roam, read and create. And I’m in solidarity with an address where ‘weathered’ and ‘reclaimed’ are as consequential as ‘beautiful’ and ‘fashionable’.

Through my stay, I keep dipping into experiences infused with magic. The Farm’s bohohic vision manifests itself in exquisite Rajasthani drapes and sheets, individual artefacts with their own story, and my evocative olive room. The couple and I bond like kindred spirits and when I bid farewell, it’s Ritu who has the final word: “I hope our hedonistic playground lingers,” she waves. She needn’t worry.

₹15,000 plus taxes for two per suite; thefarmjaipur.com ■