

WORLD TRAVEL

MAGAZINE

Staying in
Architecture
& Design
Marvels

*Unexpected
Jaipur*

Revisiting the Pink City

**Riding
The Rocky
Mountaineer**

Singapore S\$8
Malaysia RM 20
Thailand THB 200
Indonesia IDR 75,000
All Others US\$6

August/September 2017

ISSN 2382-6037
9 772382 603000

MCI (P) 023/10/2016
KDN PPS 1858/2/2015(025588)

*Soak in
Asia's Magic*

Mumbai, Bangkok, Singapore,
Koh Samui, Phuket & Hong Kong



This Page, India Circus by Krishna Mehta **Opposite, clockwise from top left**, Sushi Rice Crisp at Hello Guppy; relaxed ambience at Slink & Bardot; bright pop art at Hello Guppy; the iconic Taj Mahal Palace Hotel; elegant interiors of Artn designed by Gauri Khan

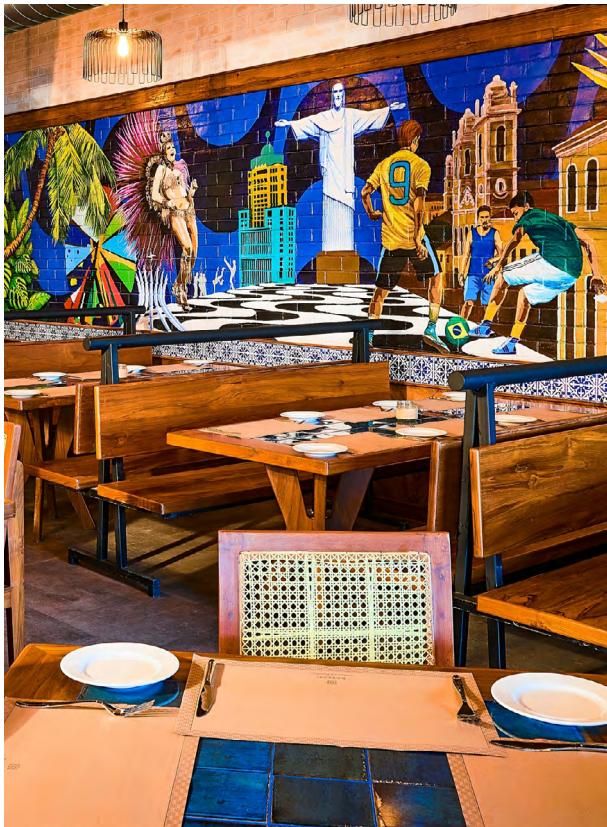


MUMBAI MAGIC

INDIA'S PULSATING FINANCIAL CAPITAL IS CONSTANTLY REINVENTING ITSELF

BY PRACHI JOSHI





MUMBAI'S ECLECTIC DINING SCENE HAS BEEN BURGEONING OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS

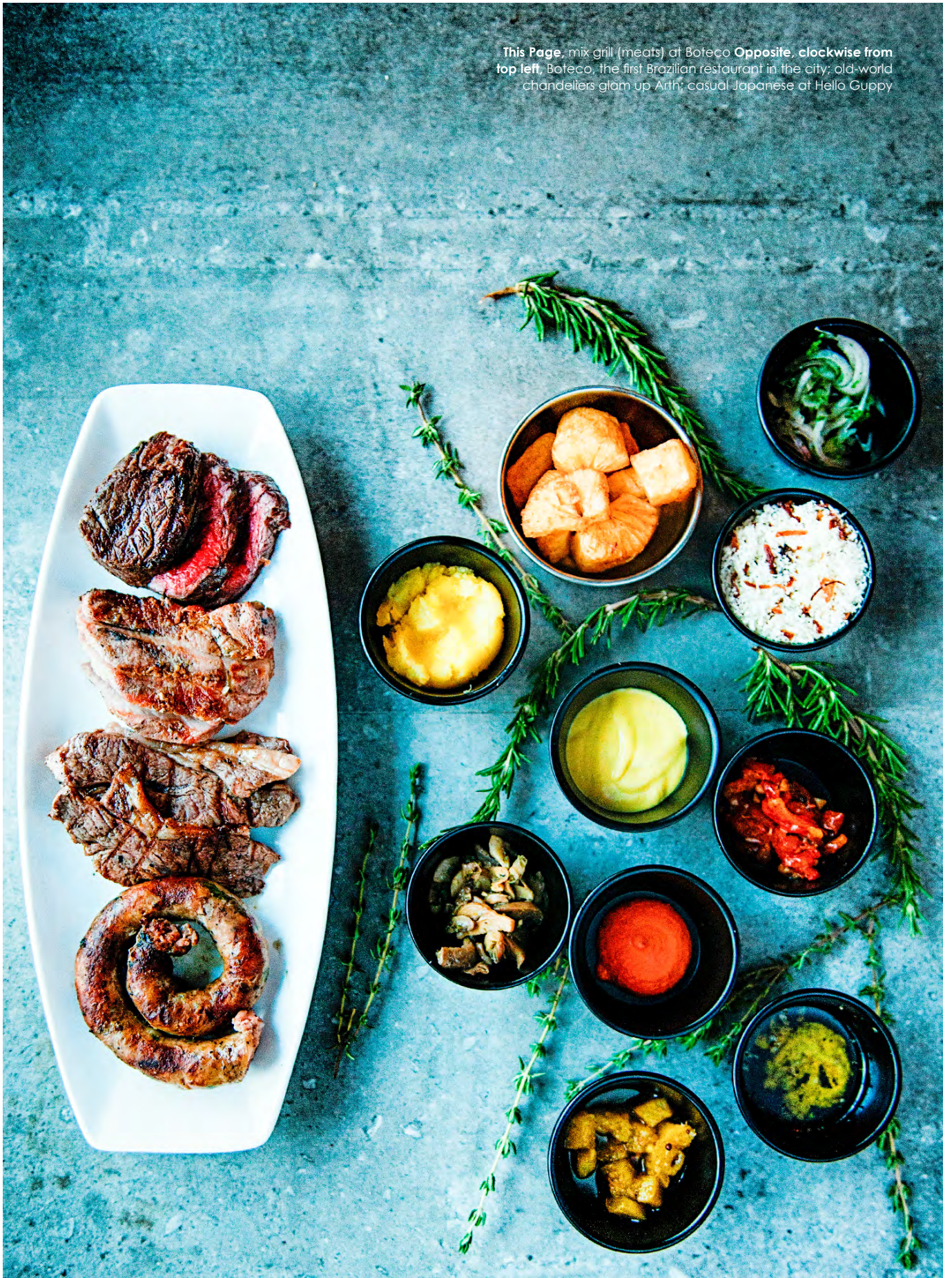
No two words capture the essence of **Mumbai** better than Maximum City. From the old-world charms of its downtown SoBo (South Bombay) to the spanking new glass-and-chrome suburban facades, the city has a lot going on to keep you occupied. Whether you're here for a weekend break or a longer sojourn, here's what's new and trendy in Mumbai.

Eat street

Mumbai's eclectic dining scene has been burgeoning over the past few years and has positively hit turbo-speed in 2017. The city's first Brazilian restaurant, **Boteco** in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) opened doors recently with potent caipirinhas, delectable coxinhas (chicken stuffed in dough & golden fried to perfection), and assorted grilled meats on offer. BKC is also home to **Hello Guppy**, a brightly coloured casual Japanese restaurant where the walls are plastered with retro anime pop art and the sushi, ramen, and donburi are some of the best in the city. Practically next-door, celebrated ex-Taj chef has opened the eponymous **Hemant Oberoi Restaurant** serving up modern European with a touch of Japanese and Latin American influences. If you prefer to tickle your palate with modern Indian flavours, try **Arth**



This Page, mix grill (meats) at Boteco **Opposite**, clockwise from top left, Boteco, the first Brazilian restaurant in the city; old-world chandeliers glam up Arth; casual Japanese at Hello Guppy





NEW BARS, ART GALLERIES, LIVE GIGS - THERE'S A LOT
HAPPENING IN MUMBAI





in Khar, a glam restaurant designed by Gauri Khan where the kitchen eschews the stove and cooks everything from litti-chokha to raan biryani either on charcoal or tandoor. For fans of the East, **Progressive Oriental House (POH)** at Lower Parel promises a delectable pan-Asian experience, while the très français **Slink & Bardot** at Worli will satiate your taste buds with inventive French cuisine – try ‘The Duck’ and the ‘Belle-Helene’ poached pear, and thank us later.

Raise a toast

Some standout new watering holes have opened up in Mumbai lately where you’ll be guaranteed a swinging time. The much-awaited Bengaluru import **Toast & Tonic** at BKC is the place to go for fabulous (and generously sized) gin cocktails spiked with housemade shrubs – The Herbalist with its citrus and basil notes is our favourite. Lower Parel’s **Kamala Mills** is bursting at the seams with excellent restaurants and bars, the newest of which is **Kode**, with its massive centrepiece of a bar where each drink is a theatrical, three-course presentation – you will never look at a Bloody Mary or an Old Fashioned in quite the same way again. **The Taj Land’s End** has a new gastro-bar, **The House of Nomad**, where heady cocktails mix with a global tapas menu, while a floor-to-ceiling ‘wine wall’ woos the oenophile. If you’d rather sip on a whisky, **Burn – Kitchen & Malt Room** in BKC beckons with an extensive list of single malts from around the world.

Culture culture

Mumbai’s art scene got a new addition recently with the **Rukshaan Art Gallery** opening doors in the art and culture precinct of Kala Ghoda. The gallery presents the novel concept of ‘undated’ shows where the artists will be showcased for several months while its minimalistic décor allows the art to shine through. Further north, an old mill warehouse in Mahalaxmi has been repurposed into **The G5A Foundation of Contemporary Culture** with a rotating calendar of music and theatre performances, documentary screenings, and discussions. Suburban Andheri gets a new live music venue, **The Finch**, where international and homegrown artists treat you to everything from jazz and folk to soft rock and world music, all of which is combined with craft beers and world cuisine.

Retail therapy

Take a piece of Mumbai back with you from **India Circus**, the designer Krsnaa Mehta’s first-ever store. Located in Kala Ghoda, this is your one-stop shop for everything from kitschy home décor to funky accessories and fashion. Nearby, the cool design store **Filter** has an expertly curated collection of stationery, accessories, wall



This Page, from top, progressive Oriental House; live gigs at The Finch **Opposite, clockwise from top left**, Bar at Toast & Tonic; Rukshaan Art Gallery; Kitschy home decor at India Circus; Chairman by Soumitra Gouri, at Rukshaan Art Gallery



WITH MUMBAI'S EVER-EXPANDING URBAN SPRAWL, YOU'LL BE SPOILT FOR CHOICE WHEN IT COMES TO HOTELS



art, and more. For more art and photography, head down the road to **dayDREAM**, a tiny haven where art lovers can spend a happy afternoon amidst art prints, canvases, and portraits.

Check in

With its ever-expanding urban sprawl, you'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to hotels. If you choose to stay in genteel SoBo, there's no better place than the grande dame – **The Taj Mahal Palace Hotel** in Colaba. Its unbeatable seaside location coupled with its refined hospitality make the flagship Taj hotel an easy choice. In the heart of the city stands the country's tallest hotel tower – **The St. Regis Mumbai** in Lower Parel where your personal butler attends to your every need while you grab a drink at Asilo or indulge in some modern Japanese at Yuuka. The business hub of BKC is home to **Sofitel Mumbai**, whose understated luxury reflects its French sensibilities, especially at Artisan, which transforms from a Parisian bistro during the day to a mellow jazz lounge in the evening. And finally, the city sees a new luxury opening in Autumn 2017 when **The Chedi Mumbai** opens doors to its futuristic tower hotel in Powai. With 312 rooms giving sweeping views of the Powai Lake, the hotel promises to be an exciting choice for the discerning traveller. ✦

Clockwise from top left, Maratha Suite at The Taj Mahal Palace Hotel; So SPA at Sofitel Mumbai BKC; Presidential Suite at St Regis Mumbai