



PHOTO COURTESY THE BLACK SHEEP BISTRO

CITY: PANAJI
RESTAURANT: THE BLACK SHEEP BISTRO,
 SWAMI VIVEKANAND ROAD

True to its name, The Black Sheep Bistro stands out from the motley crew of restaurants in Panaji, Goa. Owners Sabreen and Prahlad Sukhtankar designed the space themselves. Having worked in some of the best hotels internationally, the couple had a fair idea of what their bistro in Goa should look like. The Bistro's 100-year-old colonial facade belies its interiors—chic, contemporary and very New York—decorated in moody hues of walnut and black, with vanilla walls for a spot of brightness. The outdoor seating area merges fashion and food with racks of wispy clothing from next-door neighbour Sacha's Shop.

—CHRYSELLE D'SILVA DIAS



PHOTO: MANAV PARHAWK

CITY: JAIPUR
RESTAURANT: BAR PALLADIO, NARAYAN SINGH
 CIRCLE

Bar Palladio is a case of Venice meets Jaipur, rendering a blue and white tableau of design elements, which are iconic and resoundingly echo both cities. There are stories hidden in every niche, alcove and arch of this watering hole at the Narain Niwas Palace hotel in Jaipur, owned by Barbara Miolini and designed by Marie-Anne Oudejans—the Dutch designer behind fashion label Tocca. Bar Palladio is a throwback to the gentlemen's clubs of the 1960s in spirit, and European furniture, Mughal art, block prints, colours and Jaipur itself in aesthetic. You might wince at the thought of fusing the aesthetics of a Venetian cafe and a Jaipur palace, but the mating here has a sinuous flow, with the Mughal motifs painted in white on blue walls, scallops meeting Rajasthani arches on bay windows and furniture that is understated and subtly European. A Jaipur artist has painted frescoes of local bird life in the innermost area of the bar, while the bar itself has lions carved in marble, reminiscent of early-20th-century Venetian cafes. Oudejans partnered with Marie Lusa of Zurich-based Studio Marie Lusa to create Bar Palladio's visual identity and graphics, and with Jaipur artisans to create the painted motifs in each space. The spaces are well-suited for leisurely conversations over the Italian menu and classic cocktails, including what is arguably Jaipur's best Long Island Iced Tea. For evenings that are pleasant, the white and blue canopies in the garden are a tempting option.

—MITA KAPUR



PHOTO: GEORGE SEEMON, STAPATI

CITY: KOCHI
RESTAURANT: 51, BAZAAR ROAD

Designed by architect George Seemon of AD50 architecture firm Stapati, 51 on Bazaar Road is flanked by the energy of this ancient street on one end, and the beauty of the Arabian Sea on the other. An old abandoned warehouse was converted into a restaurant for the hotel Spice Harbour. Seemon maintained the natural, industrial look of the warehouse, furnishing it with rustic tables and Tolix cafe chairs—replicas of a 1934 design by late French designer Xavier Pauchard. Polished cement floors and walls, with wooden beams and original window pieces maintain its natural feel.

—TANYA ABRAHAM