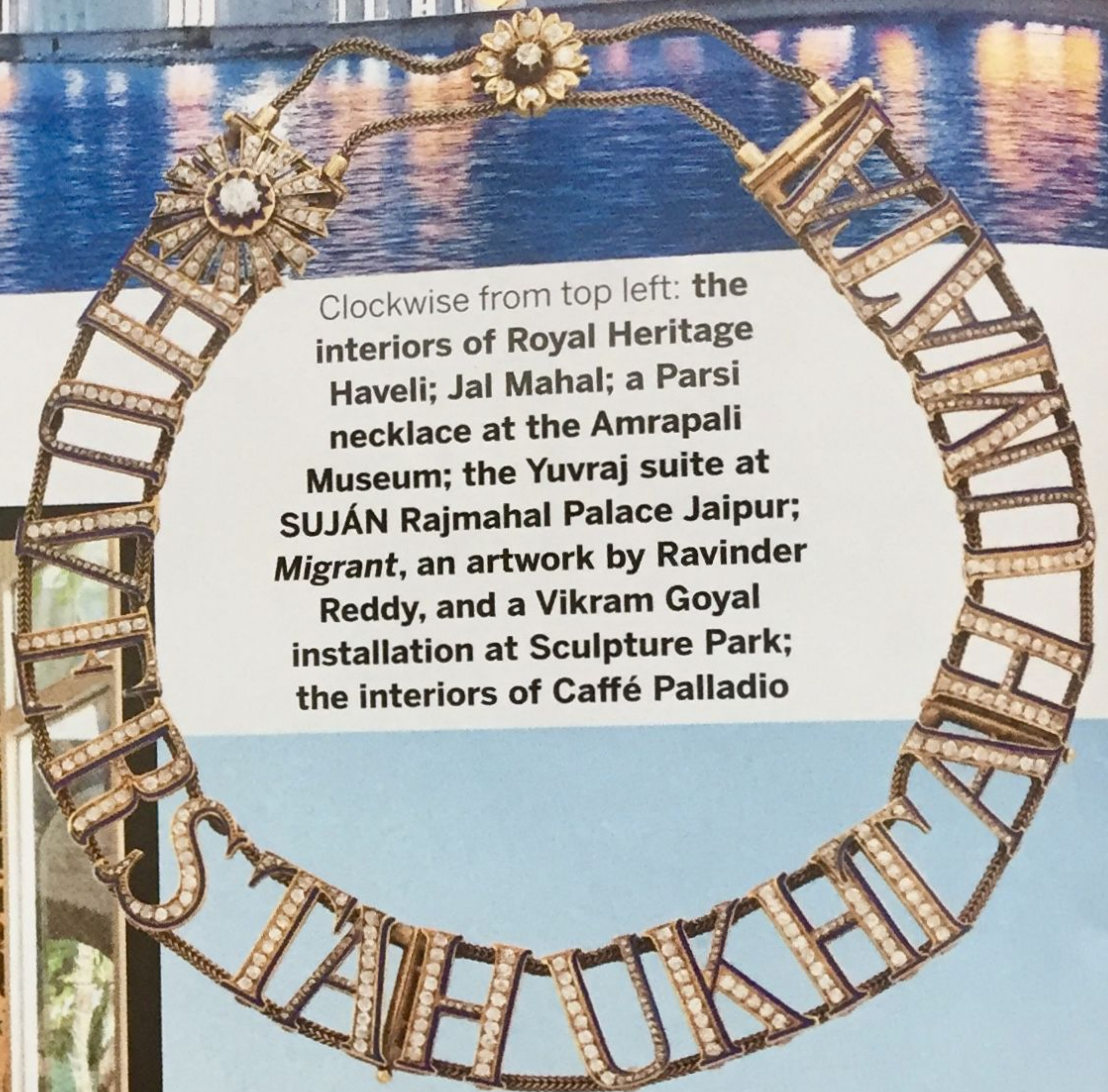




Clockwise from top left: the interiors of Royal Heritage Haveli; Jal Mahal; a Parsi necklace at the Amrapali Museum; the Yuvraj suite at SUJÁN Rajmahal Palace Jaipur; *Migrant*, an artwork by Ravinder Reddy, and a Vikram Goyal installation at Sculpture Park; the interiors of Caffé Palladio



WHAT'S NEW IN JAIPUR

Shunali Khullar Shroff visits the historic Pink City and finds a swish cosmopolis of tony bars, cool museums, charming cafés and chic restaurants. She lists the addresses to know



RAJMAHAL CAFÉ

Originally built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in 1729, SUJÁN Rajmahal Palace Jaipur is now a stunning boutique hotel known for its rich, royal look and feel. From the moment you set foot on the milky-white marble steps of the porch and walk through the opulent Darbar Hall (richly hued wallpaper, Ming vases, chandeliers and portraits of its regal owners), you know an extraordinary experience awaits you. The hotel, however, is a case study in blending classic and contemporary, and the all-new Rajmahal Café is proof. The beautiful al fresco spot offers seasonal Italian fare, with ingredients from SUJÁN's own organic gardens. Think wood-fired pizzas and fresh fruit gelatos, all with a lovely view from the terrace—and all accompanied by perfectly crafted cocktails and wines from SUJÁN's extensive list. (www.sujanluxury.com; doubles from ₹41,000)

AMRAPALI MUSEUM

Jaipur has traditionally been a mecca for jewellery lovers. In January this year, the owners of the iconic Amrapali Jewels, Rajiv Arora and Rajesh Ajmera, gave its pilgrims another reason to return to the city when they threw open to the public a museum that showcases their personal collection of rare vintage pieces in silver and gold. The Amrapali Museum houses exquisite examples of art, design and craftsmanship, sourced over four decades from the bazaars and pawn-shops of India. These now sit proudly under the spotlight across 6,500sq ft of space. The audio tour guide makes it easy for enthusiasts to walk around and learn about these stunning pieces. (0141 5191 100)

CAFÉ SAMSARA AT ROYAL HERITAGE HAVELI

The family-run boutique hotel was built as a royal hunting lodge in the 18th century,

but its newest addition is firmly in the 21st century. Café Samsara promises to keep you in good shape, with its healthy snacks, baked goods and veggie juices. If you do want to be indulged, head to the on-site restaurant under the stars, where a 200-year-old Kigelia tree, slow-burning logs, the family's basset hounds, deft service and homestyle local fare (cooked to order) make for an unforgettable dining experience. Mehrab, the well-stocked bar on the ground floor, used to be a garage back in the day, but watermelon-pink walls, bevelled mirrors and old family photographs have transformed it into a theatrical nook. (www.royalheritagehaveli.com; doubles from ₹11,500)

SHIKAAR BAGH

Hunting was a favourite sport of the Rajputs until it was banned and declared a criminal offence in 1972. Now, Shikaar Bagh, a new multicuisine restaurant and bar in Jaipur has recreated the ambience of a hunting party by replicating a machan (a hunting platform). Located within the extensive Narain Niwas Palace premises, this buzzing bar is set amid tall trees. The indoor lounge and the dimly lit upper deck—all done in wood and leather, buzz with chatter and music in the evenings. (0141 2564 308)

SCULPTURE PARK

Perched in the Aravalis, an hour away from the main city, the park is a unique public-private partnership that showcases art within the centuries-old Madhavgarh Palace in Nahargarh Fort. Curated by Peter Nagy and

Aparajita Jain of Delhi's Nature Morte gallery, it is a surreal museum of modern delights set against a majestic backdrop. Think *Stone Wings* by Thukral & Tagra, *Migrant* by Ravinder Reddy and an aluminium-cast Ambassador by Subodh Gupta.

CAFFÉ PALLADIO

A tranquil Sicilian garden tucked within a quaint, historic building—in Jaipur? Caffé Palladio, with its Italy-meets-Wes-Anderson décor, is exactly that. Dutch designer Marie-Anne Oudejans is known for her colourful (and highly Instagrammable) aesthetic. The lush courtyard leads up to vaulted salons. Inside, murals of palm trees, prancing fowl and spring blooms stretch from one corner of the café to another, providing a beautiful setting to enjoy the elaborate confluence of Middle Eastern and Italian cuisines. (www.bar-palladio.com)

