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HOSPITALITY COMES FROM THE HEART

30 Fine Design Treats In a 7 Course Meal

Pilgrimage Soup For The Soul

Weddings Appetizer Before The Big Spread

Hotels Salad In Fine Places

Resorts Main Course Is More Than Food

Personalized Dessert Is Always Personal

Restaurant Bite-sized, Big on Glam

Food Truck Till we Meet Again

Cine lore has it that the legendary V. Shantaram often sat by the side of the valley to think up ideas for his next magnum opus. More recently, it is rumoured that when one major director/producer's set caught fire, he sat closeted in this resort with instructions not to tell anyone his whereabouts. Talking to the manager of this resort reveals many tales, and one realizes that every hospitality space does tell a story- of the people who lived there and of their dreams.

Location:

Placed at the edge of a sheer drop, this resort was the private property of V. Shantaram and many years later, government regulations do not permit the construction of any property so close to the edge. With many trees hundreds of years old, the entire resort displays two certainties – one is the dappled sunshine at any time of day, the other is the interesting manner of design both specific to the rooms as well as in the landscape.

The upper level unit, accessed by this lovely Bougainvillea avenue.

Of Celluloid,
History and Geography too

The Valley View Grand Resort at Panhala is a box of all the ingredients that make up a great script.

Context:

The sprawling Valley View Grand is lucky to be in exalted company. If this entire part of the state of Maharashtra is about valour, bravery, battle, the Valley View Grand keeps up its own intriguing secrets too. For example, the architect had actually made a tunnel from the reception/office to the units, to enable guests to keep dry from the torrential rain that cascades in monsoon. This was later topped with a stone plaza and is now a dance floor.

Hotel:

The hotel has rooms above the restaurant, offering splendid views of the valley. Manicured lawns with hard and soft landscaping make it a tranquil, exclusive space, supported in spirit by the trees- hundreds of years old.

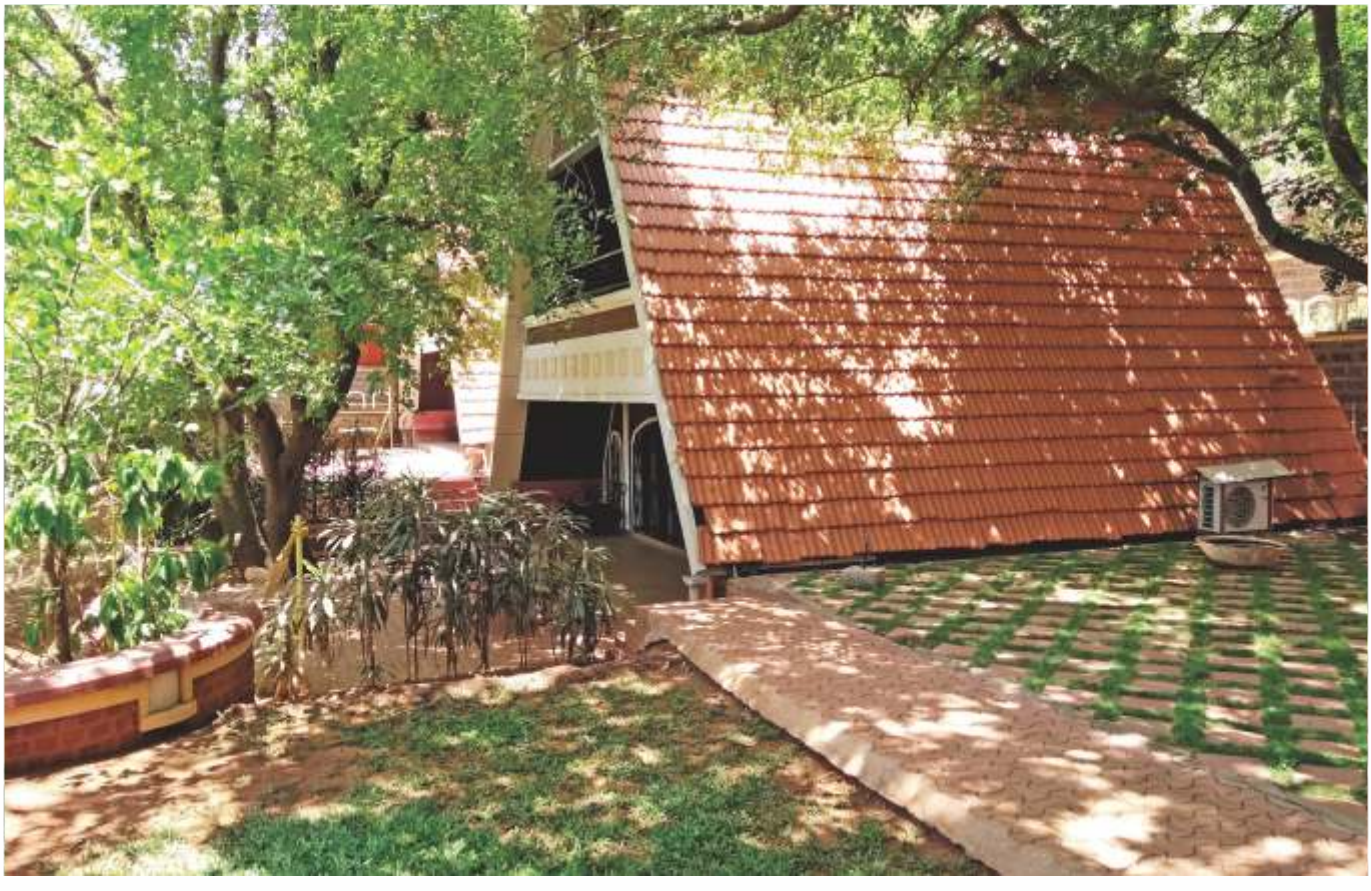
Villas:

The villas form an important part of the layout. Not only are they designed in accordance with the slope of land, but the clever design allows

The restaurant with the hotel above, overlooking the valley.

The resort office is welcoming, with its exposed brick effect, white arches and steep overhangs.

These photos clearly show the upper and lower levels of the villa.



two units-one small and one large- to fit into the steep gabled structure. Upper level unit offers a view and the lower level one has a very generous verandah in lush greenery. The rooms are understated with only Moroccan style tiles for a dash of colour.

Where Eagles Dare

There are three reasons why the Valley View Grand is a must-include for a magazine on Hospitality:

1) Historical importance with reference to pop culture ie movie lore.

2) Design that respects climate, location and emotions.

3) Colour that is used through the pink bougainvilleas, the leafy walkways, and the brown of exposed brickwork.

All of this sums up the quote- 'To design a retreat for the mind, it requires not an architect but an observer of human behaviour'.

The memorial to the movie legend V. Shantaram sits quietly within this resort.

Rooms with dark ebony finish and patterned tiles.

Manicured lawns allow seclusion and solitude.

Valley view
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