TAMARIND GLOBAL

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TAMARIND EVENTS & NEWS

VIACOM EVENT IN MUMBAI

Tamarind MICE organised a mega event for Viacom 18 in December. 'Evolve' unfolded at the Renaissance Mumbai with a special opening presentation- 850 attendees watched the dynamic audio visual displayed on a 180 sq ft wide LED Wall , engineered and produced by Tamarind Global for Viacom 'Evolve' !

CREDAI CONCLAVE IN NEW DELHI

In December, Tamarind Events organised a 3 day CREDAI Conclave in New Delhi at the Taj Palace. 650 people attended the highly successful event.

10 TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN ALIBAUG

A pulsating party took place at Alibaug, where the Tamarind team pulled off an event to remember!
Paris House Addict, Jon Qui and DJ Madoc rocked the evening with their addictive tunes!

INCREDIBLE INDIA ROADSHOW IN DOHA

An 'Incredible India' roadshow was organised by Tamarind Global at Marriott Marquis Doha on 18 November, 2015. The Road Show was inaugurated by Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Ambassador of India to Qatar. The event was well attended by Qatari dignitaries, senior officials and businessmen, travel trade partners and media, as well as officials from leading Indian hotels and airlines

FEATURED EVENT DESTINATION - THE ST. REGIS SAADIYAT ISLAND RESORT, ABU DHABI

Abu Dhabi has a sunny climate with fresh sea breezes; temperatures range from 15° C to 25° C in winter and from 30° C to 40° C in summer. Saadiyat Island is a beautiful natural island just 20 minutes from Abu Dhabi International airport and 7 minutes from downtown Abu Dhabi.

Providing a 'place to breathe' away from the hustle of city life, Saadiyat Beach Golf Club harnesses the stunning beauty of Saadiyat Island to create an unparalleled experience, made all the more rewarding with spectacular views of the Gulf's glittering crystal blue waters fringed by pristine white sands.

The St. Regis Saadiyat Island is your new address in Abu Dhabi to unwind your senses. The Hotel and the Residences at the St. Regis Saadiyat Island are framed by the prestigious Golf Course designed by golfing legend Gary Player and a pristine white beach. The hotel's air of mystique is created by thoughtful Mediterranean architecture and a contemporary interior design, which is further enhanced by an intelligent use of natural products and elements.

The interiors come alive with a neutral palette of cool browns and creams punctuated by the occasional burst of vivid coral turquoise, adding a distinctive twist to the décor.

For the most lavish and exquisite wedding or special occasion, guests can look forward to a standard of extraordinary service, symbolic of a time-honored tradition of excellence. Our highly trained staff extend our legacy of innovation in every thoughtful touch and discrete gesture.

DESTINATION NEWS

J&K to tap winter tourists through food festivals and roadshows

As per a report in The Tribune, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department has announced the marketing campaign for winter season which is characterized by 10 food festivals and roadshows to be organized in prominent and important cities of the country. Farooq Ahmed Shah, Secretary Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir, recently interacted with representatives of Kashmir-based travel and trade organizations and had a comprehensive brainstorming session. "All these cities will be targeted to generate maximum chunk of visitors for the state in the next summer and the current winter season. Prominent citizens, media and relevant travel and trade bodies will be invited to the road shows, which will be an effective platform for promoting Jammu and Kashmir by showcasing the immense tourism potential of our state," said Shah.

Indian cities rise in popularity on TripAdvisor

The world's largest travel site revealed this week that Delhi and Bengaluru saw the biggest improvements in positive feedback by TripAdvisor users, in terms of reviews and interest in the cities' accommodation, restaurants and attractions. Delhi also came seventh in the global list, making it the only Asian city in the worldwide top 10. "Our well-travelled community has helped us identify the destinations around the world that are gaining in interest and popularity," said Barbara Messing, chief marketing officer for TripAdvisor. "We hope these destinations inspire those planning their travel for 2016 to book trips to these locales that feature excellent hotels, restaurants and attractions, and also provide a great vacation value."

India tops inbound tourism in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan, a central Asian country, is directing its efforts to lure in more Indian tourists. Currently, India ranks first in Uzbekistan's inbound tourism market, with the highest number of more than 25,000 tourists every year. Uzbekistan Airways, along with Aeroworld Aviation, has been actively involved in promoting the destination through roadshows across

India.

Western clothing ban for South-Indian temples

A court order was issued last month decreeing that jeans, shorts, skirts, t-shirts, short-sleeved shirts or tight leggings would not be permitted in any temple in the state of Tamil Nadu. The move is intended to "enhance spiritual ambiance". The ruling, which came into force on 1 January, will impact an estimated 6,000 temples, ranging from small shrines to major religious sites. It will apply to all visitors, including local worshippers and tourists. "We should dress for public worship in a way that is generally considered appropriate," the court said in the order.

E-tourist visa scheme registers 2713.4% growth in November

A total of 83,501 foreign tourists arrived in the country on e-Tourist Visa in November 2015 as compared to 2,968 during the month of October, 2014 registering a growth of 2713.4% , according to a PIB release. UK continues to occupy top spot followed by USA, France and Germany among the countries availing E-tourist Visa facility. During January to November, 2015, a total of 3,41,683 tourists arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 24,963 during the same period last year, registering a growth of 1268.8%.

HOTEL NEWS

Leela Group expands presence in Delhi-NCR by taking over Kempinski Ambience

The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts has expanded its luxury portfolio in the National Capital Region (NCR) by adding one more property in Delhi, making it the third property in the region. The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel is a five-star 480-room property. With this, The Leela Group now operates three properties in the Delhi-NCR, offering over 1,150 rooms, the hospitality major said in a statement here. "The addition of The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel Delhi to our portfolio further consolidates our presence in the Delhi-NCR and underscores our asset light growth strategy," President of the luxury hotel Group Rajiv Kaul said.

TAJ opens new luxury hotel in Bengaluru

Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces announces the opening of Taj Bengaluru, the latest addition to the group's luxury portfolio and the sixth Taj group hotel in the Garden City. Conveniently located minutes from Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, Taj Bengaluru will offer guests a world of sophisticated luxury. Through its contemporary, sleek and spacious design, the Taj Bengaluru offers a window into the progressive spirit of the Garden City. The melding of indoor and outdoor space and use of natural light is a tribute to the city's temperate climate.

Mercure Hotels Lavasa awarded 'Best Mid-Market Hotel'

Mercure Hotels Lavasa has been awarded the 'Best Mid-Market Hotel' at the India Hospitality Awards – West and South. The award ceremony took place at Crown Plaza, Cochin. Manish Dayya, area GM for AccorHotels' Lavasa Hotels and Convention Centre, said "The award is a source of great honour and pride to us. I want to thank all my fellow colleagues at Mercure Lavasa for their dedicated support and outstanding performance which has helped us achieve this benchmark by providing the best quality of services to our guests."

Holiday Inn Express transit hotel to launch at Delhi Airport

The company has signed an agreement to take over the running of the existing Eaton Smart New Delhi Airport Transit Hotel, which was the first hotel to open in the transit area of an Indian airport terminal. The 93-room property will now be rebranded as the Holiday Inn Express New Delhi International Airport Terminal 3 by the end of this year. Shantha de Silva, IHG's head of Southwest Asia, said the hotel would serve a rising number of passengers, following an expansion plan that aims double the airport's capacity by 2030.

Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group signs seven hotels in Jammu and Kashmir

Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, one of the world's largest and most dynamic hotel groups, recently announced the signing of a portfolio agreement with Mushtaq Group of Hotels to open seven hotels comprising 817-rooms under the Radisson Blu, Radisson and Country Inns & Suites By CarlsonSM brands, in the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. The seven hotels will be located in the main gateway markets throughout the state and will position Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group as the largest international hotel operator in Jammu and Kashmir. The first hotel is expected to open in the fourth quarter of 2016 in Srinagar. "This multiple-hotel portfolio deal underscores the rapid rate of Carlson Rezidor's expansion and reinforces our leading position in India, a key market that we remain deeply committed to.

AIRLINE NEWS

IndiGo ushers in the New Year with a bang, inducts its 100th Airbus A320 aircraft

IndiGo, India's largest and fastest growing airline and favorite on-time performer draws the year to a close with a truly Merry Christmas. IndiGo celebrates a significant milestone taking its fleet size to a 100 Airbus A320 aircraft. IndiGo took delivery of the 'VT – IDR' aircraft to join its ever growing fleet on 23rd December, 2015. The aircraft puja was done today, 24th December 2015, at Terminal 1D Delhi. With 653 daily flights connecting 39 destinations, IndiGo promises its customers the best experience that the aviation industry has to offer, with its hassle-free, matchless and on-time performance the airline is synonymous with. These new flights will allow travelers to experience the matchless on-time performance IndiGo is synonymous with, thus further consolidating the airline's position as the fastest growing airline in India.

Air India launches Mumbai-Gwalior, Mumbai-Surat flight

Government-owned Air India on Friday resumed its flight services to Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh besides launching air services to Surat from Mumbai. Air India, in a statement said that both flights, Mumbai-Surat-Mumbai and Mumbai-Gwalior-Mumbai will operate three times a week on (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays) with an ATR 72-600 aircraft. Air India had earlier in August 2013 also commenced services to Gwalior from Mumbai, which were later discontinued.

Air India launches London-Ahmedabad flights

The inaugural flight departed the Gujarati city's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on Tuesday morning, marking the start of a new daily service. Initially, flights will stop in Mumbai in both directions, but there will be no need for passengers to change aircraft. The outbound flight, AI131, will now depart Ahmedabad daily at 0430 and arrive in Mumbai at 0545. After a brief stop, the flight then takes off from Mumbai at 0705 and arrives at London's Heathrow Airport at 1130. The return flight, AI130, will then leave the UK capital at 1330 and arrive in Mumbai at 0400 the next morning. The flight will then leave Mumbai at 0530 and arrive back in Ahmedabad at 0645. Air India will operate the new route using its 256-seat Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft, which features 18 seats in business class and 238 in economy.

GETAWAY RESORT OF THE MONTH

HARD ROCK HOTEL GOA

Have a rocking holiday at Hard Rock Hotel Goa, the first resort of its kind in India. Located in the heart of Calangute just minutes from a number of famed beaches, this Goa resort is a complete entertainment destination, offering world-class accommodations, stylish design, and unparalleled service that will refine lifestyle hotel living.

Live freely at Hard Rock Hotel Goa. Sample international cuisine or a classic hamburger at Sessions, float around in the crystal blue pool (the longest in town!) and enjoy a fabulous cocktail at the poolside bar — there's all this and more, at Hard Rock Hotel Goa.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Hard Rock Hotel without music, so during your stay, you'll enjoy legendary live performances and customized playlists and guitar jam sessions in your room with Sound of Your Stay®. No matter how you spend your Goa vacation, it will be unforgettable when you stay at Hard Rock.

Hotel accommodations don't get much better than those at Hard Rock Hotel Goa. Live like a rock star in one of the 135 stylish rooms or suites, which feature signature furnishings like a spacious work desk and custom-made beds with Sleep Like a Rock® bedding that invites you in for a deep, satisfying slumber. You'll enjoy every minute of your stay at the luxurious resort. After all, this is not just a hotel, it's an iconic experience with a vibe you can't afford to miss.

At Hard Rock Hotel Goa, even the little ones can be Roxtars! Let them play and be free at the Hard Rock Roxity Kids Club™, where fun rules, laughter fills the air, creativity runs wild and music brings everyone together. Every day at the kid's club is a new adventure, and everyone is welcome to join the band!

Day or night — it's always a party at the Hard Rock pool. Turn the pool into your own aquatic dance floor as a DJ spins the hottest tunes on select nights. Throw in some beach balls and have a blast — after all, you're on holiday!

Contact us for special packages on info@tamarindglobal.com

TAMARIND PROMOTION OF THE MONTH

ITC GRAND MARATHA, MUMBAI

In an ambience steeped in history, complemented by a richness of culture acquired through centuries, ITC Maratha, a luxury hotel in Mumbai brings you world class luxury with the warmth of Indian hospitality in an experience that is unmistakably majestic. Inspired by the Maratha dynasty, this luxury hotel presents a range of cuisines, accommodation and recreation options that are comparable with the best in Mumbai, and the world. A short distance away from the airport, this majestic luxury hotel reaffirms the understated grandeur and ethos of Maharashtrian hospitality. ITC Maratha's reputation is anchored in many factors, a prominent one being its restaurants bring you treasures of Indian, Continental and East and South East Asian culinary traditions . At the centre of it all, the Peshwa Pavilion, an open-to-skylight 24-hour restaurant forms the pivot of activity.

Striking the perfect balance between world class luxury and the warmth of Indian hospitality, this landmark hotel presents 380 luxury rooms allowing you to choose the accommodation that best suits your needs, when you are in Mumbai.

The Kaya Kalp Spa offers complete rejuvenation of mind, body and soul. India's culture lies at the heart of the Indian experience..... Journey through this majestic land of ancient customs and rituals, and recapture the spiritual and medicinal legacies that have been handed down through the centuries. Kaya Kalp also offers western style therapies using luxurious products that are natural but deliver the desired effects.

Contact us for more information on info@tamarindglobal.com

TOP FIVE PICKS

TOP-5 ICONIC STREET MARKETS IN INDIA

Janpath, Delhi

You cannot go to Delhi and not visit Janpath! On offer are dozens of small kiosks selling all kinds of cotton clothes and curios, and plenty of silver and artificial jewellery studded with semi-precious stones. Many Tibetans who came to India when China invaded Tibet settled here as traders. The Tibetan Market, near Hotel Imperial, is a storehouse of curios and Tibetan artefacts. You can shop for some silver jewellery, thangkhas and brassware. There's plenty of ethnic footwear, in the form of mojris, jutis and Kolhapuri chappals, artefacts, carpets, and Rajasthani handicrafts. Brush up on your bargaining skills and you will be sure to get some fantastic deals!

Jew Town, Kochi

History records that the Jewish settleres cane to Kochi as early as 700 BC for trade and commerce. Once a Jews enclave, Jew Street is now bereft of that community barring one or two families. The iconic Market Road still bustles with spice market and tourist curio shops dominated by Kashmiri shopkeepers selling mostly wood carvings, oil lamps, spice box, snake boats and some tempting coffee table books. The spice shops are everywhere, and air is filled with the biting aromas of ginger, cardamom, cumin, turmeric and cloves. The nearby Synagogue and the Mattancherry Palace a re a must do while you are in the area.

Arpora Saturday Night Bazaar, Goa

This sprawling market is located in Arpora and transpires every Saturday evening from 6pm until late night. Here, one may find everything from archetypical Indian stalls selling spices, teas, Kashmiri carpets and silver jewellery to international designers who convene from all over the word to sell their unique creations, many of which may be found only here. This market also houses food stalls featuring cuisines from across the globe, and the centre stage that hosts live concerts featuring Rock to Indian Classical. Further up the hill, is "The Boutique House Bar" that serves delightful cocktails (try the fresh strawberry Daiquiri) while DJs play late into the night.

Colaba Causeway, Mumbai

The everyday carnival that is the Colaba Causeway market is a shopping experience like no other in Mumbai. Dodge persistent balloon and map sellers, as you meander along the sidewalk and peruse the stalls. Apart from upmarket retail showrooms, there are numerous small shops and footpath outlets selling everything from artifacts to shawls, carpets and minor antiques to slippers of all kind. Restaurants, cafes and roadside eateries that make the street popular with tourists and locals alike are Delhi Darbar restaurant, Cafe Churchill, Kailash Parbat and Gokul. Cafe Mondegar, and the Cafe Leopold were founded by Iranians in 1871, and are the most popular watering holes in the area.

New Market, Kolkata

What was established in the year 1874 as a shopping destination to cater to needs of the British residents in India has now grown into perhaps the most beloved shopping arcade in the city of Joy. So what is so endearing about this market? Well, simply put, the place is best described as a maze with shops selling everything one can ever imagine. From clothes to footwear; fashion jewelry to precious metals and stones, electronic gadgets to toys; convenience stores that stock food items, daily use products, cosmetics, toiletries; an entire section dedicated to the selling of rare and exotic flowers; a range of shops that sell on dry fruits and such products, currency exchange booths, and some very old yet world renowned confectioneries like Nahoums.

GLOBAL CUISINE

CREAMY LEEK AND POTATO SOUP

This is a hearty winter soup that is easy to make and a great start to a winter meal.

INGREDIENTS
50g butter
4 large potatoes, peeled and cut into 1cm pieces
1 small onion, cut the same size as the potatoes
2 cups white parts of leeks , sliced
850ml-1light chicken or vegetable stock
1/2 cup whipping cream
125ml full-fat milk

To finish
the white part of 1 leek
a small knob of butter
finely chopped chives

METHOD

Melt the butter in a heavy saucepan. When it foams, add the potatoes, onion and leeks and toss them in the butter until they are well coated. Season well with salt and freshly ground pepper and toss again. Now cover the pan with its lid. Cook over a gentle heat for 10 minutes, or until the vegetables are soft but not coloured.

Uncover the pan and pour in 850m of the stock, bring to the boil and simmer until the vegetables are just cooked – about 5 minutes. Do not overcook or the soup will lose its fresh flavour.

Purée in a blender until silky smooth, in batches if necessary, then taste and adjust the seasoning. Return the soup to a clean pan and stir in three quarters of the cream and all of the milk.

To finish the soup, finely shred the white leek and gently cook it in the hot butter for a few minutes until it is softened but not coloured. Reheat the soup to a gentle simmer (add some extra stock at this point if the soup is too thick for your liking), then pour into warmed bowls. Drizzle the remaining cream over each serving, top with a little pile of buttered leeks and a scattering of chives and black pepper and serve at once.

THE MOST AMAZING EVENTS IN THE WORLD!

INTERNATIONAL PICKS OF THE MONTH

BATTLE OF THE ORANGES

How does the ancient town of Ivrea, Italy celebrate its freedom during carnival? By pummelling each other with oranges, of course. At the Carnevale di Ivrea the battle isn't waged with guns and swords—oranges are the weapon of choice. Every year, the tiny northern city of Ivrea in the Turin province stockpiles 500,000 kilograms of fresh oranges for Battaglia delle Arance (Battle of the Oranges), a re-creation of a historic fight between townsfolk and a ruling tyrant. Unlike Spain's La Tomatina, the Battle of the Oranges isn't a backpacker free-for-all. It's highly structured, steeped in history and contains some competitive elements. It's free and fun to watch for nearly 100,000 spectators, but for the nine competitive teams of almost 4,000, it's serious business and the highlight of the year.
Where : Ivera, Italy. When : Feb 06-09, 2016

HOLY SHIP!

The world's top DJs throw a rave at sea- Holy Ship! has all the elements of a mega electronic dance music festival, including big-name DJs, beautiful bodies, all-night parties, and glowy lights—minus the masses and mud. Holy Ship! is a floating fiesta aboard a 4,000-passenger ocean liner. The music starts as soon as the vessel pulls out of port in Miami, and doesn't let up for the next 60 hours. The frisky twenty-somethings plunge right in, aided by Red Bull and other endurance enhancers. Needless to say, the scene gets trippy fast. Djs stoke parties in various venues, including the Pantheon Theatre , the Black & White Lounge, and the Galaxy Disco . The party migrates to the beach once the ship docks at the Bahamas.
Where : Miami, USA. When : Jan 05- Feb-28, 2016

INDIAN PICKS OF THE MONTH

JAISALMER DESERT FESTIVAL

The Jaisalmer Desert Festival is an annual event organized each February at the beautiful golden desert city of Jaisalmer in the state of Rajasthan, India. The massive golden citadel of Jaisalmer towers above the Thar Desert. Bazaars overflow with the famous crafts of Rajasthan, and nomads trek across the desert to sell woven goods, silver jewelry and black-market items at the bazaar. The festival begins with a ceremonial procession, where men carrying swords atop horses, camels, and elephants are cheered on as they enter the venues of the desert festival. With events such as camel racing, turban tying, and the longest mustache competition, this quirky Indian festival showcases the cultural wonders of Rajasthan.
Where: Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. When: Feb 20-22, 2016

SULAFEST

Two days of music, wine, drinks, food, fashion and shopping await you at the Sula Vineyards, Nasik. Sula fest-goers can look forward to a megamix of great music, wine, drinks, food, fashion and shopping in the idyllic environs of the winery's beautiful open-air, Greek-Style amphitheater. The likes of Café Zoe, Woodside Inn, Maroosh and Busago will serve up great food to go with the wine. At the recently launched Soleil by La Plage, Chef Morgan prepares a menu with organic produce from Sula's very own farms, offering a sit-down gourmet dining experience for the first time. Accommodation ranges from camping out in tents 300 meters away from the amphitheatre, to a variety of hotel options less than 30 minutes away from the venue.
When: February Dates TBA Where: Near Nasik, Maharashtra

INDIAN WEDDING TRADITIONS

GREEN BANGLES FOR MAHARASTRIAN BRIDES

In Maharashtra, the bridal chooda is significantly different from other parts of India. The brides wear green glass bangles in odd numbers. The green signifies creativity, new life and fertility. They wear these along with solid gold bangles called patlya and carved kadas called tode. The gold bangles are usually gifted by the groom's family. Would-be-brides wear the smallest possible bangles with the help of oil. This signifies that her married life would be full of love and affection.

Glass bangles have the Sattva component, Devi Principle and Chaitanya (Divine consciousness) in them. Due to these, sattvik and Chaitanya–predominant waves in the environment are attracted to the glass bangles. In addition, due to the sound generated by the glass bangles, the negative energies back off. This explains why one feels good looking at glass bangles.

Red signifies energy and prosperity, while green denotes good luck and fertility. Yellow bangles are meant for happiness, white is for new beginnings and orange is for success. Silver bangles denote strength and gold bangles are the ultimate symbol of fortune and prosperity.

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