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JANUARY 2015
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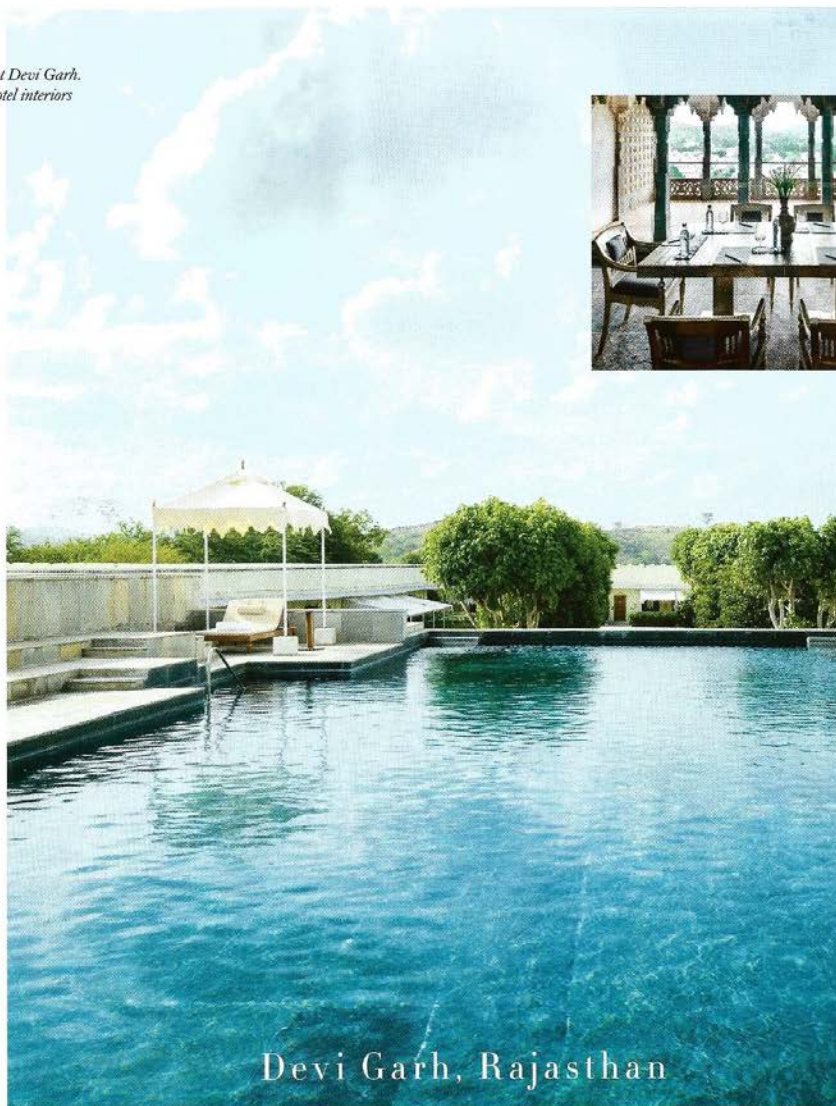
Gstaad Palace
in the Swiss Alps

Grandes Dames

Often the best hotels aren't the new ones,
but the great old favourites that have built a reputation
for beauty, luxury and unparalleled service

Bazaar

The pool at Devi Garh.
Right: hotel interiors



Devi Garh, Rajasthan

If you ever imagined what the perfect Indian palace hotel should be like, the answer is probably to be found at Devi Garh in Rajasthan. Just outside the shopper's paradise of Udaipur and set in a converted 18th-century palace, it offers pure, old-school luxury, with every modern convenience, and is impossibly romantic. The paths and staircases are strewn with rose and marigold petals and lit with tealights at dusk. Every room is different and charming, with marble bathrooms, teak shutters and beautiful artwork. Some of them feature a seating area in one of the old turrets, inlaid with semi-precious stones; garden suites boast their own private terrace. The food is fabulous, and particularly strong on tandoori confections; and the outdoor swimming pool is one of the most gorgeous in the world: the Aravali hills surrounding Udaipur loom hazily in the distance, and pale-pink and green parakeets fly around overhead. Breathtaking. HILARY ROSE

Five nights in a Palace Suite, from £1,899 a person B&B, including British Airways and internal flights, transfers and private sightseeing trips, with Greaves Travel (020 7487 9111; www.greavesindia.co.uk).