THE SERAI, JAISALMER, RAJASTHAN

The vast multihued desert was bewitching as it rippled into a horizon blotted by the sun’s warm painting. While we sat under a colourful canopy, leaned back against plush embroidered cushions and felt like potentates of an unknown fifth dimension.

Sunburnt on the dunes, organised by The Serai, Jaibhar, a Relais & Châteaux outpost close to the magical medieval city of Jaisalmer, was a detectable affair. The array of stalls vied with the views that unrolled in front of us of endless expanses of sand and heaving dunes. The two bedouin camels that we had ridden earlier nuzzled on their haunches, proud profiles etched against the fading light of the sun. The camels’ ears in the air path added dollops of colour to the dusky landscape. More surprises awaited us at the Serai, set on a hundred acres of private indigenous desert sands. Inspired by the royal caravan sites of ancient Rajasthan, The Serai is a complex of deluxe tents with charming terraces dotting up as a reception area, a dining area, and a garden-enclosed spa with the glittering pool reminiscent of the stepwells of yore, as a stunning centerpiece.

As dusk fell on the desert, clamping its dusty embrace, we sat at a table for two with expansive views of the wilderness beyond and of the dashing tent and the glittering swimming pool in front of us. This was true luxury in the wild—a royal Rajasthani repast served by soft-footed wait staff clad in traditional garb, the melodious silver notes, monochromatic desert and the soulful melodies of Manganiyar musicians...all of it stummed our senses.

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A Table For Two

Romance comes a-calling in picturesque settings where intimate meals become a celebration of love and togetherness...in the lee of the Taj Mahal, a palace or a hilltop monastery; in a desert, a sinewy fort, a lush forest or even in a haunted, abandoned town.

Words and Photography GUSTASP & JEROD IRANI