

COLLECTION CENTRIC

Sara Shah checks out the newly launched fashion store — Malaga

Malaga, by Malini Agarwalla, recently celebrated ten years in the fashion industry with the launch of its flagship store in south Mumbai. Located on Hughes Road, the store spans over two floors, but is cosily compact. Bright lights, along with carved furniture and touches of gold further enhance the appearance of the jewellery and clothes on display. While the ambience is reminiscent of a regal room, I reckon that the look is synonymous with those of other designer stores these days, so it's nothing special.



>> The Malaga store gives off the vibe of a regal room

Malaga has an extensive display of traditional Indian dresses and handbags and an even more extensive collection of jewellery and clutches. Pretty colours bounced off every corner, and the dresses had me reaching out to touch and feel the fabric and embellishments on them. Zardosi work on rich fabric decorated the displays and lights emphasised the Swarovski crystal work. Although aiming for a contemporary look, Malini Agarwalla succeeded in retaining a hint of ethnicity in her dresses. Carefully handcrafted jewellery and clutches gleamed on the shelves in a multitude of colours. Personally, I couldn't get my eyes or my hands off the clothes, so I was pretty much sold on the collection, if not the store itself. The collection at Malaga is priced from ₹5,000 onwards. If I did have any complaints, it would be with the unconcerned staff and ambiguous location. But, if you're looking for unique, traditional wear, stop by the store.

Where Malaga Inc, Dharam Palace-11B, Hughes Road, Mumbai
Contact 40046333

<< NEW LAUNCHES STAR-WARS SHOES BY VANS

Footwear brand Vans, recently introduced its latest collection of Star Wars-inspired shoes, with artwork from the original films. The collection features artwork with characters such as Darth Vader and his stormtrooper, BobaFett, and Yoda. Their classic slip-ons include a printed replica of the 1977 poster from the *Star Wars: A New Hope* film. The collection features a comic book-style print that was used on the original Star Wars merchandise.

PRICE ₹2,799 onwards

WHERE Available at all exclusive Vans stores in Mumbai. Also available at select online retailers and department stores.



<< STORE REVIEW REWA ESCAPE & MALAGA

>> Rewa Escape offers a serene view of the sea as you enjoy your treatment



DOWN BY THE SEA

Forget weekend getaways and days spent by the sea. Instead, make your way to **Rewa Escape's** new body treatment rooms when you've got a couple of hours to spare, says **Rhea Dhanbhora**

An old Men at Work song trails through my mind on loop, along with occasionally distorted versions of *She Sells Sea Shells*, while I lie on crisp white sheets and intermittently perk my ears up to the soft sound of waves whooshing past on a breezy afternoon. I'm not lounging on white sands and I am definitely not far removed from the city, though it sure feels like it, at least for a couple of hours...

THE GREAT ESCAPE

When I heard rumours of a spa by the bay floating around a few years ago and when I heard that there would be a bite-sized view of the sea from somewhere on a bustling Peddar Road, I laughed. But, there's nothing new about the location of Rewa Escape, the spa has been tucked away for a couple of years now, and although it created its fair share of ripples a few years ago, I still couldn't believe it was as perfect as the description being sold to me.

Desperately trying to find something that fell slightly short of my expectations, I kept my oohs and aahs to as much of a minimum as I could, carefully observing each French window, staring out to sea as though something in the water would be cause for concern. But, through my afternoon at the spa, I was forced to slowly retreat into a position of absolute surrender, with the ambience and treatment colliding with such force that there wasn't much room left to think — in a really, really good way.

Ushered into what looked like someone's private bungalow (walk right to the end of the road — yes, it really is the spa) I was suddenly in a scene out of an Enid Blyton fairytale. Small shrubs lined the sides of blankets of grass that were so

well-kept that it was all I could do to keep myself from treading over it barefoot. Whitewashed walls stood tall and untouched by the sea breeze, little vines crept up carefully so as not to disturb the rest of the well-manicured area... the only things missing were rose bushes and tufts of honeysuckle.

SLEEP BY THE SEA

While the spa always offered a view of the sea while you got a foot massage or a pampering facial, there's now another reason to visit — which, of course, is why I was there. How could two new rooms make a difference to an entire spa experience, right? Well, when they're private rooms that offer you a view of the sea (don't worry, no one can look inside, they've bought the entire lawn in front to ensure privacy and have blinds for when you need to change!), you can spend hours watching the waves while all the tension in your muscles is slowly eased away with some of the most relaxing treatments I've ever experienced. Their private rooms can be easily converted to one massive couple's room, where you can go for a luxurious treatment with your loved one — perfect for a honeymoon escape.

MUST BE SOMETHING IN THE WATER

If you can't decide what treatment to opt for, choose what I did and try the Amritam Mardana (₹4,500 for 105 minutes), a house favourite and a heady mixture of Thai, deep tissue and Ayurvedic massage techniques. What sounds like a bit of a mess, actually culminates into one soothing, rejuvenating and refreshing treatment, with stretches, pulls, kneads and light presses all balanced with a

generous dose of massage oil, finished off with a back massage facing the sea and a soothing steam afterwards. Their new body massages start from ₹2,400 (75 minutes) onwards, which doesn't exactly fit into your friendly, neighbourhood budget spa, but it's worth every penny when you see where your massage is taking place, and feel deft and nimble fingers ease away your aches and pains.

On its own, the treatments would be run-off-the-mill spa services (very good ones), but with such a view, even the ₹5,000 for the 120-minute Bespoke Ritual (perfect for a gift) doesn't seem as exorbitant as it would at another spa. They also offer a BFF ritual (₹8,000 for 120 minutes) for two people and a Romantic Couples Ritual (₹10,000 for a good 2 ½ hours). If you're strapped for cash, old favourites such as the Express Cleanse Ritual (₹650 for 45 minutes) will help you experience a tiny bit of the spa. However, I'd save a little extra and get into one of the rooms instead.

You're definitely paying for the view, but with several spas offering you the same treatments at similar — if not more exorbitant — prices in more cramped spaces, and with none of the cool sea breeze to greet you on your way in and out, why would you grudge them? In a city as chaotic and devoid of empty spaces, I would pay a little extra to spend a few hours in a bubble of bliss, surrounded by nothing but empty spaces and the open sea.

Where Rewa House Bungalow, Bank of India Lane, Opposite Cadbury House and National Garage, Bhulabhai Desai Road
Contact 9619444993/ 23520580
Website www.rewaescape.com