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Resort in Manali: An eco-friendly, 'handmade' hotel perched atop lush hills

ShivAdya Resort and Spa in Manali is a traditional-style property that can easily be mistaken for an ancient temple rich with history.



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Photo caption: ShivAdya, Manali is a striking manifestation of owner Ritesh Sood's immense pride



in his Himachali roots

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The tedious journey from Chandigarh to Manali is back-breaking to say the least, but once you begin to enter the outskirts of Manali, the quaint houses in the middle of apple orchards against the backdrop Himalayan peaks is a salve for the soul. Around 10 minutes uphill drive on the Manali-Naggar road, and hidden into a turn off the main road, amidst a bucolic and dreamy setting is ShivAdya Resort & Spa. At the first glance, it is easy to mistake it for an ancient temple (it does bear resemblance to the Tripura Sundari Temple). This stone and wood resort in Manali, almost blending into the background with its earthy look, is passionately described by its owner as a 'handcrafted property'.



Photo caption: Amidst a bucolic and dreamy setting on the Manali-Naggar road is ShivAdya Resort & Spa

Resort in Manali: Clever Masonry

'Handcrafted'? Did someone design and assemble the property by hand? As one

stands in the courtyard, under an apple tree, taking in the sights and sounds of the sprawling property from its courtyard, it is evident that the adjective is not a misnomer. The traditional *kath khuni* architecture inspired property indeed looks like a brilliant specimen of deft masonry.



Photo caption: A snug lounge with a wood-burning fireplace welcomes you as you enter ShivAdya

Ritesh Sood is the owner of the property and the man behind this creative concept. The perfect ambience of ShivAdya's snug lounge, heated by a wood-burning fireplace additionally adds a nice warm glow to the setting.

Resort in Manali: Ode to The Past

ShivAdya is a striking manifestation of Sood's immense sense of pride in his Himachali roots. It is a fusion of stone, wood and mud; its design inspired by the architectonics of Himachali temples, local houses of Kullu and Kinnaur, colonial bungalows and Himachali palaces of

yore. The 15-room boutique luxury resort & spa is a mix of stone, mud & wood. The rooms are named after the villages, passes and the awe inspiring mountain peaks of Himachal Pradesh.



Photo caption: The design of ShivAdya, Manali is inspired by the architectonics of Himachali temples, local houses of Kullu and Kinnaur, colonial bungalows and Himachali palaces of yore

Resort in Manali: A Vintage Make

One cottage at ShivAdya has been strictly traditionally designed and constructed, using old construction techniques. This building does not have any beam, pillar structure and the walls rise from 8 feet beneath the ground, starting with 3 feet wide wall-like structures. Once projected above ground, these walls are 18 inches wide. This building uses iron rods only in lental. Three pillars providing strength to the lental and roof have been painstakingly made using stone work.



Photo caption: The rooms in ShivAdya, Manali are named after the villages, passes and the awe inspiring mountain peaks of Himachal Pradesh

The Restaurant & Spa block in this Manali resort is a beautiful amalgamation of architecture style of Bhimakali Temple at Sarahan and Hadimba Devi Temple at Manali.

The building uses different stones and masonry styles in its construction. The outside walls have been constructed with large slate stone chiselled down to smaller pieces; most rooms have at least one wall in stone and the restaurant interiors are done in a picturesque mix of stone, wood & mud. The local materials have been sourced from in and around Kullu Valley. Wood used is also of different Himalayan varieties—walnut, fir, sheesham, pine etc.

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