

Ritu Kumar's flagship store

Mumbai's Kala Ghoda precinct has claimed the crown of not only the city's premiere cultural district, but also its preferred fashion destination. The latest design house to find home in its stylish environs is Ritu Kumar. The flagship store is Kumar's attempt to bring to the fore India's rich 2000-year-old textile history — the fibre, fabric, and patterning technique.

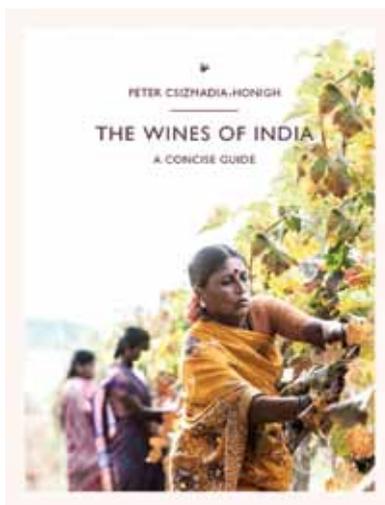
The décor of the 2,300 square feet boutique revolves around the 'Chintz' textile trade of India of the East India Company. Designed in conjunction with Mumbai-based architects, Shweta Shah and Pranav Naik of Studio Pomegranate, the store focuses on the brand's efforts for reviving *Kalamkaris*. Kumar has sourced designs from across the globe, and has recreated them digitally across the store — larger than life Tree of Life panels, Mughal court scenes, and *Kalamkari* ceiling panels. A unique installation of Benarasi cotton currently occupies centrestage, showcasing lesser known handloom



weaving from the holy city of Kashi — a part of the revival project Kumar has been deeply entwined with. The museum-like setting will house the designer's bridal collections, Indian formal-wear as well as the pret brand, LABEL. ritukumar.com

Demystifying Indian wines

Explaining the narrative of Indian wines, London-based wine consultant and writer, Peter Csizmadia-Honigh has penned a book titled 'The Wines of India: a Concise Guide' in association with All things Nice. Launched in Mumbai, this definitive guide on Indian wines will be launched in London, Budapest and Delhi in the coming months. A fully illustrated and authoritative companion to Indian wines, the 452-page tome helps wine lovers navigate India's wine landscape. It features 50 wine producers and nearly 400 wines with up-to-date information, throwing light on the diversity of Indian wines and presents a list of recommended wines with brief tasting notes, detailed producer profiles, and specially commissioned maps. Csizmadia-



Honigh is a certified sherry educator who crafts Juhfark wines for Michelin-star restaurants and is a co-proprietor of Royal Somló Vineyards. He was responsible for the Institute of Masters of Wine's study and examination programmes in Europe, North America and Australasia between 2005 and 2014. A frequent visitor to India, he sees India as an "emerging wine country in Asia." thewinesofindia.com

Luxury sales hits €1 trillion

Despite the slowdown, sales of luxury goods worldwide have surpassed the €1 trillion sales milestone in 2015, as per the Luxury Goods Worldwide Market Monitor brought out by Bain & Company and Fondazione Altagamma. And India's luxury goods market is expected to touch €1 billion by the end of 2015, a 13 per cent yearly increase at current exchange rates.

The personal luxury goods market including leather accessories, fashion, hard luxury and fragrance and cosmetics reached €253 billion in 2015. This segment, in which accessories account for almost a third, recorded a 13 per cent jump at constant exchange rates, or a one to two per cent in real terms.

The overall luxury industry — comprising 10 segments as per the study, led by luxury cars, luxury hospitality and personal luxury goods, accounted for 80 per cent of the total market. The market delivered healthy growth of 5 percent YoY, driven primarily by luxury cars (8 per cent), luxury hospitality (7 per cent) and fine arts (6 per cent).

According to Bain's research, Chinese consumers continue to make up the largest portion of luxury purchases (31 per cent) globally, followed closely by Americans (24 per cent) and Europeans (18 per cent).

Asia saw a poor year at constant exchange rates because of a slower mainland China and sharp drop in sales in Hong Kong and Macau, Bain said. bain.com

WORLDWIDE LUXURY "MARKET OF THE MARKETS" (2015|€B)

