

FACTSHEET

"THE CHAPSLEE EXPERIENCE"



Overview

Evocative of a bygone era, CHAPSLEE, the erstwhile summer residence of Raja Charanjit Singh of Kapurthala was opened as a small exclusive hotel in 1976 by the late Kanwar Ratanjit Singh and his wife Pronoti Singh enlisting it as the 8th Heritage Hotel in India.

Location

Chapslee is perched on a Ridge atop Elysium Hill & yet only a ten minute walk from the famous Mall road of Shimla.

History

Chapslee, was built in 1830 by Dr. Blake of the East India Company and was made in the local "dhajji" style, comprising mud, grit and wood. As Governor General Lord Auckland's "Secretariat" it was where the 'Simla Manifesto' the declaration of war against Afghanistan was signed on 1st October, 1838. After Governor Generals Lord Ellenborough, Lord Hardinge it was sold to General Innes in 1848, who named it Chapslee. In 1896, Sir Arthur Milford Ker, a leading banker, purchased Chapslee and carried out extensive renovations while retaining the original 'core' structure to make Chapslee Shimla's finest residence as recorded by 'Simla Past and Present', the first historical account of Shimla in 1904. Chapslee was purchased by Raja Charanjit Singh of Kapurthala in 1938 when its interiors were fully refurbished and has since remained with the family.

"The Chapslee Experience"

Chapslee echoes a lifestyle which is now a thing of the past. Staying at Chapslee is like stepping back in time to an era of gracious living, soft footed service and painstaking attention to detail. Many have passed through its portals to experience the soothing comfort of time worn antiques and soak in its old world charm, to feel the allure of tradition and experience the tranquillity of age. To be surrounded by the gentle opulence of velvets and old brocade, glowing silver and antique furniture that assert character and reveal the charm of history. We welcome our guests to revel in Chapslee's grandeur and soothing splendour and savour the 'warmth' with which it welcomes all who come within its fold.

Ambience

An atmosphere of gentility and finesse pervades the air at Chapslee. The public areas include the Hall, The formal drawing and dining rooms, The Gold room, A Library/Card room and a Conservatory. Chapslee has large grounds which include a terrace garden and a croquet lawn.



Accommodation

The Luxury Suite:

Resplendent with an ornate brass bed and other antique furniture, a Rhododendron pattern wallpaper reminiscent of the hills, this King size suite has a separate sitting room overlooking the deodar trees, as also 3 fireplaces including one in the bathroom.



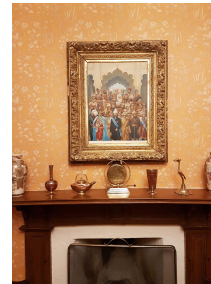
The Deluxe Suite:

With a queen size brass bed, a fireplace and a vine pattern wallpaper, this elegant room boasts of a lovely view of the radiant sun set on the hills beyond.



The Yellow Room (Standard Suite):

Twin brass beds, Indian miniature paintings, brass curios, a fireplace, and beautiful wallpaper with indian motifs the yellow room resonates with warmth and energy.



The Pink Room (Standard Suite):

The understated elegance of this room with twin beds, antique pink and silver wallpaper, fireplace and a quaint bathroom exudes old world charm and character.



The Red Room (Standard Suite):

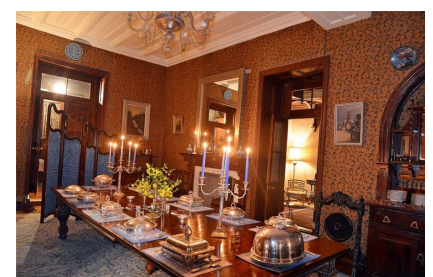
A charming and cosy room with hand painted mirrors, twin beds, fireplace and floral wall paper.



Cuisine:

Chapslee has been acclaimed for its 'gracious hospitality and uncompromising standards of service'.

Chapslee is especially renowned for its cuisine, the hallmark of the Royal House of Kapurthala. Recipes from princely states of Northern India have been honed to perfection by Late Kanwar Ratanjit Singh a gourmet extraordinaire. Exotic fare such as Aam ka pulao, Murg Naraj Dampukht, Kali Moti ki biryani, Kaddu ka halwa, Lahsun ki kheer continue to be served to our guests. The Continental and Anglo India Cuisine reminiscent of the Raj is also a novelty at Chapslee which attracted the legendary Anthony Bourdain to stay with us and savour an Anglo Indian meal as featured in "Parts Unknown Punjab, India" in 2014



Recent Renovation and Restoration at Chapslee

A 188 year old heritage property like Chapslee requires constant maintenance and upkeep. In the recent past extensive renovations have been carried out in and outside the house, and just to highlight a few:

- Renovation of the bathrooms with tiles, wooden flooring and wallpaper which has added warmth and character.
- After extensive efforts we have found wallpaper suited to the style and period of the House. The bedrooms dressing rooms and bathrooms have been freshly wallpapered. The hall and the gold room is next on the agenda.
- Smoke alarms in all the bedrooms and public areas for safety along with fire hydrants etc.
- Replacement of the entire roof with insulation was carried out some years ago along with the stone paving of the entire drive.
- Fencing of the boundary to provide privacy to our guests from the world beyond.
- Construction of a one lakh litre underground tank for water harvesting, laying of a fresh all weather croquet lawn with a quaint green house.



Recognition and Renown

Books:

Maharajas Palaces, Indian Style, Hill Stations of the Raj, Heritage Hotels of India, Palace Hotels of The Raj, Hill Stations of India, Beautiful Homes, Simla, The Summer Capital of British India, Lonely Planet 1000 Places to see before you Die, etc.

Magazines:

Vogue, Harper and Queens, Tatler, Inside Outside, Design and Architecture etc.

TV Series:

BBC series on Stones of the Raj, The Kalka Shimla Railway (2009), Rudyard Kipling (2015).

CNN:

feature titled "Parts Unknown Punjab, India" in 2014 by Anthony Bourdain.

Awards:

Trip Advisor Awards for "Travellers Choice", for 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, as well as "Service Excellence" awards for 2015 and 2016. Chapslee was ranked 5th amongst all Heritage Hotels in India, in 2014.

Chapslee was awarded the World Luxury Hotel Award for the Best Heritage Hotel in Asia in 2016.

