



Maxwell Reserve

SINGAPORE

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AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION®  
HOTELS

THE MARK

*Defining the rich history of The Garcha Group*



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# Maxwell Reserve

This 1929 cluster of fourteen three-story vintage shophouses is a traditional architectural form in Southeast Asia, being one of the earliest forms of fusion using Chinese elements with European Colonial architecture.

It is a unique part of Singapore's architectural history and a part of the Tanjong Pagar – Chinatown – Conservation Area.

The insignia of the lion head motif on the Maxwell Roadside along with the belief that the building's name "Murray Terrace" originates from Colonel A. Murray (a Colonial Engineer and Surveyor General of the Straits Settlement) suggests that the building may have served originally as an army barrack. It was rebranded in 1977 to the Murray Terrace Food Alley.

## Highlights

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Lion motif at Cook Street entrance





Location 1



*a. Photo of Baba Surinder Singh Bedi (father of Ambassador Gurdip Bedi - grandfather of Ms. Harpreet Bedi) holding a falcon (hence, the family logo of the falcon).*

The photos here represent the life of the current owners, Ms. Harpreet Kaur Bedi and Mr. Satinder Singh Garcha, both from historically illustrious Sikh families. "Root – Pride – Glory" are the themes running through the hotel picking up on both the family's ties to royalty, military, and polo.



*b. Photo of Col. Kuldip Garcha (father of Mr. Satinder Garcha) with Lady Diana.*



*c. Ambassador Gurdip Singh Bedi and Kanwari Winnie Gurdip Kaur Bedi Nalwa, parents of Ms. Harpreet Kaur Bedi & Ravi Inder Singh Bedi.*

## Location 2

### *Chardi Kala — The Spirit of Sikhism*

A fitting location for a Sikh-owned hotel sporting a museum-worthy collection of Sikh art and artefacts. Singapore is known as the Lion City, based on one of its early 14th-century names. Singapura, meaning “lion city” in Sanskrit (In Sanskrit, “simha” is lion and “pura” means city.) For centuries traditional Sikh men have taken Singh as their surname as a way to reject the caste system and avoid being judged by their name (Sikh women were given the surname Kaur, meaning princess). The Sanskrit word for lion, Singh was chosen because it imbues courage, power and ferocity into the Singh name.

For those following the Sikh faith, the qualities of strength and fortitude can be best understood by the overarching ethos Sikhs call Chardi Kala. The sentiment was articulated by Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708), the tenth Guru and the one who created the language and framework

of Sikhism that continues to be embraced by devout Sikhs.

Chardi Kala is a call to maintain a state of mind anchored by resilience, optimism and joy — a confidence that truth will prevail. In Punjabi, a language spoken by Sikhs living in India’s Punjab state, the heart of India’s Sikh community, the meaning of Chardi Kala is literally “rising energy.”

A powerful expression in Sikhism that serves as the ultimate guide to living, Chardi Kala embraces both humility and courage in the face of challenges. It encourages Sikhs to take a calm, cheerful and controlled path forward no matter what obstacles are encountered. Armed with relentless optimism and faith, Chardi Kala posits that every challenge is an opportunity for success and an occasion to prevail and endure with dignity.



Surinder Singh Bedi (centre bottom) and his sons, father of  
Gurdip Singh Bedi (right top), Father of Harpreet Kaur Bedi

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### Location 3

#### *Sikhs as Saint-Soldiers — Fighters with Heart*

Since its founding in the late 15th century, Sikhism has been associated with service, honour and valour, embodying what has been called the saint-soldier ideal. As Sikhism embodies the premise that you can't have peace without justice, many Sikh principles are directly in line with military values. Being a small community that was under constant threats from other groups such as the Mughals and Afghans, historically the Sikhs were conditioned to fight for survival. In those early days, they developed a military order, a warrior community known as the Khalsa, which as the most devoted followers of Sikhism, became known for its bravery and resilience.

The Khalsa played a major role in some of the great battles of South, Central and Southeast Asia. Fighting for the British Indian army in the 1897 battle of Saragarhi, in the North-West Frontier Province of British India,

21 Sikhs valiantly held off some 10,000 Afghan fighters, each earning the prestigious Indian Order. Sikhs also fought for the British in WWII against the Japanese in Burma.

The Sikh cavalry units who fought on horseback were vital in the days before widespread military mechanization. Their skill on the polo fields matched their prowess fighting on horseback and they were considered among the best warriors in the world — disciplined, principled, and relentless.

The adherence to the "5 Ks," articulated by the last and tenth Sikh leader Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708), also served to unify and strengthen a Sikh soldier's resolve. The "5 Ks" are kesh (maintaining uncut hair), kara (wearing a steel bracelet), kanga (carrying a wooden comb), kaccha (wearing white cotton undershorts) and kirpan (carrying a steel sword). These symbols serve as a distinct visual manifestation of Sikhs' identity.







Location 4



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## Falcon Logo

If you look closely, you'll see that the Garcha Group hotel logo is comprised of a falcon and a pair of polo sticks. Falconry and hunting were the hallmarks of the Bedi Family for generations and the falcon has been the family's official crest for hundreds of years.

Raja Sir Gurbaksh Singh Bedi of Kallar was an avid falconer, at times maintaining as many as two dozen Goshawks and Peregrine Falcons, along with English shotguns from famous gunsmiths such as Purdy and Holland & Holland, as well as a large number of hunting dogs, mainly English pointers and greyhounds. Raja Gurbaksh Singh's younger son, Col. Kanwar Daya Singh Bedi also inherited the passion for falconry, hunting and Polo. Commissioned into the British Indian Army from Sandhurst, England in 1921, he served as a Political Officer in several Princely States before being appointed as Independent India's first High Commissioner to Canberra, Australia in 1948. Throughout his life, he remained an avid Falconer and Shikari, apart from playing Polo in all the Princely States. His passion was passed on to his son. His Grandson, Tikka Prithviraj Singh Bedi has represented India at the Commonwealth and ASAF games in trap and skeet shooting.

The next-next generation is not to be left behind. Harpreet Kaur Bedi continued the tradition of playing polo, albeit not as avidly as her husband, Satinder Garcha. Thus Bedi-Garcha added the polo mallets to the Bedi Falcon logo to bring together Bedi's heritage and Garcha's love of polo. Today, falconry and polo continue to represent mastery, discipline and a determined elegance.

## Location 5

### *Guru Nanak Dev — Bedi's Keeping the Faith*

For the more than 20 million Sikhs worldwide, Guru Nanak Dev (1469–1539) was the founder of their faith and the first of the ten Sikh Gurus considered divine messengers and enlightened teachers, who, from 1469 to 1708, lived morally righteous lives in order to lead by example. Each reinforced the essence and spirit of what would become Sikhism — a life of dignity, freedom and honour.

Guru Nanak Dev was born into the Bedi clan, a well-known sub-caste of the Khatri community that predates Sikhism. In ancient times, a line of Khatri studied the Vedas, the ancient Hindu texts, and they came to be called Vedis; which in turn became Bedis. The Bedi descendants of Guru Nanak Dev include well-known figures in Indian history, most notably Baba Sir Khem Singh Bedi (1832-1905), one of the founders of the Singh Sabha movement, which was a push to re-ignite Sikh values and practices. Throughout

his life, Khem Singh Bedi carried a bejewelled ceremonial kirpan (or sword) for special occasions, as kirpans are considered an important symbol of Sikh identity. As direct descendants of Khem Singh Bedi, Garcha Group Founder and CEO Harpreet Bedi's family has loaned this stunning Bedi kirpan to the Maxwell Reserve hotel as a historical testament that defines the principles of Sikhism — strength, resilience and honour.

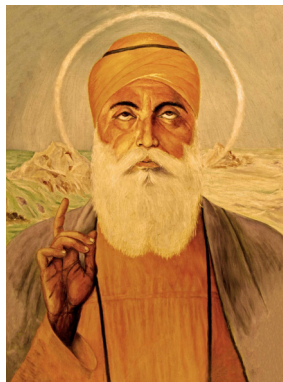


Image Source: Spiritual and Religious Paintings, The Tallence Store, Accessed 18 Nov 2023.



19th century mural painting from Gurdwara  
Baba Atal depicting Nanak, Wikipedia







### Location 6

#### *Ceremonial Bedi Kirpan*

Garcha Group Founder and CEO Harpreet Bedi's family is the guardian of this priceless ceremonial Sikh kirpan (sword). The political leader and philanthropist Khem Singh Bedi (1832-1905) carried a bejewelled ceremonial kirpan for special occasions such as the coronation of King Edward the VII.

A ceremonial sword was given to his great-grandson, Harpreet's father, Ambassador Gurdip Singh Bedi (1940-current) when he married Kanwrani Winnie Gurdip Kaur Nalwa (1947- current). He is a descendant of Hari Singh Nalwa, one of Sikh history's most important

Sikh military commanders.

In the Sikh faith, the kirpan is an important symbol of identity — one of the "5Ks" intended to unify the Sikh community, which also includes the kara (steel bangle), kangha (comb), kesh (uncut hair) and kaccha (white undershorts). Today, the stunning golden Bedi kirpan, set with emeralds, rubies and diamonds, is displayed in the Maxwell Reserve as a physical testament to the heritage and traditions at the core of Sikhism — valour, strength and family ties.



*Photo of Khem Singh Bedi*



Great grandfather of Ms. Bedi, was a political leader, philanthropist, and a prosperous landowner. He valued education for both girls and boys and established many schools. Khem Singh Bedi also understood the value of Sikhs maintaining a strong martial spirit and political voice.

To that end, during the Indian Rebellion of 1857, Baba Khem Singh remained loyal to the British and led an important cavalry charge that helped the British put down the revolt in the Gugera district of India's Punjab region. In return, Khem Singh Bedi was knighted in 1898 and gifted more land holdings.







### Location 7

#### *Collection of Sikh Medals and Coins*

This collection of medals, awards and honorary coins pays homage to the military successes of the revered Sikh military units. Also known as the Sikh Khasla Army, they comprised valiant and fearless warriors, often fighting on horseback in elite cavalry units in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The highest honour to be bestowed upon Sikh soldiers by the British Raj (Up until 1911 when Indian soldiers became eligible for the coveted Victoria Cross award) was the prestigious Indian Order of Merit award. It was posthumously awarded for the heroic performance

of Sikh fighters in the 1897 battle of Saragarhi when only 21 Sikh sepoy (Indian soldiers serving the British Empire) held off more than 10,000 Afghan Pashtuns in the contested northwest frontier of British India until reinforcements could arrive.





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*a. 20th century Louis Vuitton Courier Trunk in Monogram canvas, Paris, c.1930. Travel by family - Royalty from yesteryears*

This example dates to around 1930. With its black “lozine” trim, brass studs and locks it still shows the same elegance as it did well over 100 years ago and is a testament to the durability of the best trunk makers in the world. Today it makes for a wonderful piece of interior design, both decorative and useful.



*b. 1930s Louis Vuitton Trunk in Monogram, Malle*

This superb Louis Vuitton steamer trunk features a stenciled monogram canvas, honey colour lozine trim, LV stamped solid brass locks and studs as well as leather side handles and brass corners. It has got a beautiful original patina and is very elegant. Its customised blue and white stripes and a matching painted flag on its sides. Its interior is all original too and complete with two removable half trays on the top (1 with small compartments) and another removable tray underneath.



*c. 1930s high Louis Vuitton Trunk,  
Courier Steamer Trunk extra large*

This exceptional and rare Louis Vuitton high steamer trunk features a stencilled canvas, all leather trimmed, with solid brass LV stamped clasps and lock, solid brass corners and solid brass LV stamped side handles. Painted stripes on the sides. Very warm patina. Original interior in beige linen Louis Vuitton label and serial number. Perfect to use as a chest, a console or a blanket box.





## Location 8

### *Passion for Polo — It Runs in the Family*

With its origins dating back more than 2,000 years, a crude version of polo was played as training games for royal cavalry units in Central Asia. In those early days, up to 100 a side played the game as if in miniature battles. By the 13th century, polo, or “pulu” as it was known then, was being played by Manipuri tribes in northeastern India near the border with Tibet and China. With the rise of the Mughal empire in India under Babar in the early 16th century, polo took hold among India’s royalty and upper classes and was firmly established as the “sport of kings.”

The first Europeans to play the game were British tea planters in the northeast of India in the mid-19th century. The popularity of polo spread rapidly and informal matches were held between British cavalry units stationed in India. Soon polo was being played in England too, among the military as well as the royals, and eventually took hold in the Americas as well.

Polo has been a passion and way of life for the Bedi and Garcha families. The Bedis polo started with Tikka Surinder Singh Bedi, eldest grandson of Khem Singh Bedi, maintaining his private polo ground in his estate in Rawalpindi (now in Pakistan) with a string of polo ponies. This came to an end with the Partition of India in 1947 when the Bedi Family were forced to abandon their family estates in Rawalpindi and Kallar, and wandered homeless for several years finally settling down in Ferozepore District in an abandoned dwelling by its Muslim owner.

But polo, falconry and hunting were in their genes, and after a few years, the passion resurfaced with Brig. A S (Bong) Bedi, the first Indian to command the 8th Cavalry, who later in 1967, as sub-area Commander Poona, was tasked with the job of training young cadets at the newly established National Defence Academy in the skill of playing polo.



Satinder Singh Garcha

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Amongst them were included all the younger Army polo players, the Sodhi brothers, the Shergills, V P Singh, et al., all of whom went on to win laurels internationally.

For the Garchas the polo passion started when Colonel K.S. Garcha first started playing as a young man in the Indian Military Academy, becoming a team captain. In the 1960s, Garcha was commissioned into the coveted 61st Cavalry regiment, considered at the time the most elite regiment in the Indian Army. As one of India's top polo players, Colonel Garcha had a handicap of five goals and captained and coached the Indian National Polo Team for several years. He was awarded the coveted Arjuna Award, India's highest accolade for excellence in sports.

In those days, Colonel Garcha would routinely meet and greet visiting dignitaries in Jaipur including the polo-loving likes of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. Colonel Garcha's Singapore-based son Satinder Garcha took to the polo mallet equally as enthusiastically. As captain, he led the Singapore

National team to a silver cup at the Southeast Asian Games in 2007, and soon after founded his own polo team, which has participated in tournaments around the world. As the founders of the Jaipur Riding & Polo Club, the Garchas continue to pursue their passion for polo.



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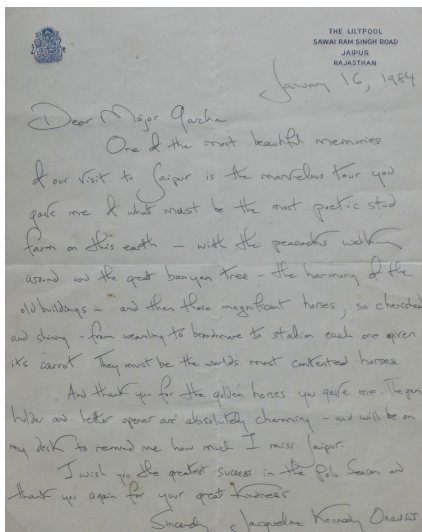
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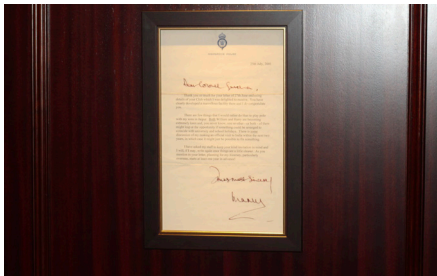


## Location 9



a. Letter from Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis to Col. Garcha - Entrance Frame.

Location 10



*b. Letter from (then Prince – now King) Charles to Col. Garcha in 2001 - Entrance near elevators.*



*c. Col. Kuldip Garcha (Satinder Garcha's father) in Ethiopia with King Haile Selassie's lion.*



## Location 11

### Vintage Land Indenture Collection

Through parcels of land bought and sold to establish plantations, build homes and start businesses, the land indenture collection displayed prominently throughout Maxwell Reserve offering a glimpse into the development of colonial-era multi-cultural Singapore and its neighbours in Penang, Malacca, Sarawak and Surabaya. The collection sheds light on an era when parts of the region fell under the umbrella of British Malaya and business was transacted in Spanish Dollars, Indian Rupees and Straits Dollars in the days when the world was mad for tin and rubber.

The earliest document in the collection is a fragile land indenture from Surabaya in Indonesia dated December 1709, while most of the others are from the 19th century when much of the region was under colonial rule. The records in all their various styles and permutations underscore the importance of Singapore's

location at the crossroads of Southeast Asia and its position as a vital player in the region's web of trade and commerce over the past two centuries.

Some documents are of historical significance because they refer to iconic Singapore locales such as Raffles Place, Finlayson Green, Mount Elizabeth and Beach Road. Others are notable because of the important businessman, statesman and gentleman scholars represented therein — influential individuals like Thomas Stamford Raffles, Cecil Clementi Smith, Song Ong Siang and Manasseh Meyer, who shaped commerce and communities, their legacies immortalised in the names of Singapore roads, bridges and parks.



Image Source: View of the Harbour of Singapore, KITLV, 1860.

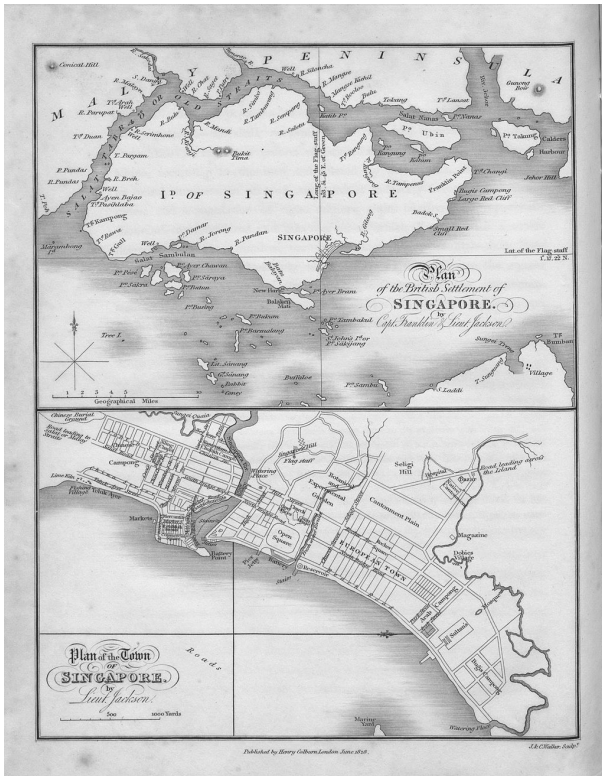


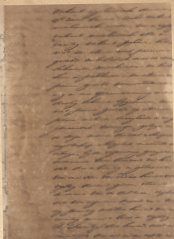
Image Source: Singapore in the Straits Settlements, Wikipedia, 29 May 2023.

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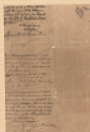
Der Commisarius, der Greffer benannt  
Der soll an den in dem Lande der  
ersten beauftragt werden.

Der Commisarius  
J. H. B. B. B.

Der Commisarius  
D. Greffer  
J. H. B. B. B.



The collection is also valuable for its aesthetic qualities. Older specimens feature elaborate calligraphic scripts, ornate adhesive stamps, ink, "chops", wax seals and ribbons.



Variant spellings reflect the level of schooling or the ethnic background of the clerk who transcribed the document, creating a wonderful mosaic of cultural and historical nuance — a footprint of what came before. The more than 200 indentures in our collection are a paper trail chronicling the Singapore story, a journey of continual change and renewal.

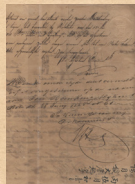






Image Source: Vasco da Gama (leaving from Portugal  
Vasco da Gama leaves to find a direct route to India), Sutori, 1497- 1499



Image Source: The Castle of Batavia, Andries Beeckman,  
Smarthistory, 1661





Image Source: Battle of Goa, Wikipedia, 1638

## Location 12

### *Story 1, The Dutch Dominance of Southeast Asia*

When the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama sailed around Africa and landed in India in 1498, the first European to open a maritime route to Asia and China, the world was changed forever. Soon after, the Portuguese conquered Malacca and a century later the Dutch arrived in the region and dominated trade with China through the Dutch East India Company. This brings us to the earliest document in our collection, a fragile land indenture written in Dutch from Surabaya in East Java, Indonesia,

dated December 1709. During the 18th and 19th centuries, Surabaya was a trading centre and the largest city in the Dutch East Indies, eclipsing even Batavia, present-day Jakarta. With brief interruptions, the Dutch controlled what is now called Indonesia until 1949. The short episode of British rule in Java between 1811 and 1816, under the command of Thomas Stamford Raffles, opened a window for the British to stake a claim in Southeast Asia.

## Location 13

### *Story 2, Raffles & The British Invasion of Java*

In August 1811, the British wrested the Dutch colony of Java from France — Thomas Stamford Raffles was instrumental to the success of the invasion and was made governor of Java. Five turbulent years in Java gave Raffles status but also brought great hardship, including the death of his wife and best friend.

In 1816, an exhausted Raffles sailed back to England along with some 20 tons of looted Javanese manuscripts and other treasures. In 1817 Raffles published his book, *The History of Java*, which earned him a knighthood. With a new title, a new book, and a new wife, Raffles returned to Southeast Asia with a mandate to find a British outpost somewhere near the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula.

Written in Dutch, these three land indentures from Surabaya in East Java, Indonesia, represent the sale of public property that took

place under Raffles' rather controversial administration.

One dates back to 1813, and the others to August 1815, just after the Battle of Waterloo, which ended Napoleonic expansion and signalled the return of Java to the Dutch.



Image Source: Jayakarta circa 1605–8, before its complete destruction by the Dutch



# THE CONQUEST OF JAVA

Nineteenth-century Java seen through the eyes  
of a soldier of the British Empire

MAJOR WILLIAM THORN

*with an Introduction by John Bastin*



The Conquest of Java: Nineteenth-century Java seen  
through the eyes of a soldier of the British Empire  
Paperback – January 1, 2004 by William Thorn





Image Source: Memoir of the Life and Public Services of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, Picryl, 1830

### Location 14

#### Story 3, Rise of a Trading Centre

In 1819, the free port of Singapore established under the East India Company took off in a way that surprised everyone including Sir Stamford Raffles. Chinese traders from China and Malacca, Bugis traders from the area, and Indian and Arab merchants gravitated to this appealing free trade zone and it quickly became a bustling regional hub.

This trio of land indentures from Penang, Malacca and Singapore adorned with Royal Arms stamps (an English crowned lion and Scottish unicorn) represent the Straits Settlements, which was an administrative unit of the East India Company from 1826 to 1867. Beach Road, by the East India Company, was made for the

purpose of building “a substantial house” for Syed Ahmed Abdulrahman Alsagoff. He married Raja Siti, a daughter of wealthy businesswoman Hajjah Fatimah who built a mosque in 1846 on the land where her residence once stood; it still stands along Beach Road.



Image Source: This lithograph depicts Kampong Glam and the Padang as viewed from Prinsep Hill in the 1840s.

Image (Left) Source: Singapore's port in 1890, National Archives of Singapore

## Location 15

### *"Honey" Craven Art*

Clarence Leo "Honey" Craven (1904 – 2003) was an American equestrian, ringmaster and manager of the National Horse Show at Madison Square Garden in New York, the Devon Horse Show in Pennsylvania, and ringmaster at nearly every prominent horse show in the United States. He also managed the Eastern States Show, the Children's Services Show and the North Shore Horse Show. Craven was born and raised in Brookline, Massachusetts. His father was an Irish liveryman who worked for Harris Upham's brokerage firm. Craven said his nickname came from an old vaudeville song, "Honey Boy." He started working with horses at age 12 when, after school, he would pick up horses from nearby estates and take them to a blacksmith's shop, sometimes riding bareback. In 1927, Craven began his association with the National Horse Show, the United States' showcase equestrian competition. He was recommended by W. Reginald Rives, secretary of the

National Horse Show Association of America. In 1928, Craven was promoted to ringmaster, a job he held for 30 years. He was the president of the Professional Horsemen's Association.

In February 1958, he was appointed as the National's Manager, a job he held for 25 years. From 1983 until his death, he held the title of Manager Emeritus, even though he retired from the show in 1991. In 1930, he married Eileen Griffin who remained his wife for 50 years until her death in 1980. They resided in Cohasset, Massachusetts and wintered in Florida.



Image Source: Clarence "Honey" Craven, National Horse Show Manager, 1stDibs. Com, Accessed 23 Nov. 2023.











Location 16

## Cultivate Cafe

Cultivate Cafe is a plant-based, GMO-free, gluten-free vegan restaurant and believes that pure food is the key ingredient to cultivate your soul. We endeavour to provide exceptional and flavourful dishes made from the finest organic ingredients.

### Highlights

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Designated polo lounge, coworking area and  
vast library of unique books





*Objects, Abbas dining chair, fully upholstered in emerald green velvet*

Objects, is a product design studio founded by Martin Brudnizki and Nick Jeanes based in London. A contemporary twist on the Classic upholstered dining chair, the Abbas dining chair perfectly supports its sitter's back whilst remaining stylish. Brass studded detailing on the chair legs and around the base of the seat is reminiscent of traditional carver chairs whilst hand-twisted piping on the seat and chair back lends a contemporary edge. A metal handle has been added to the back of the chair, making the movement of pulling out the chair from under a table swift and effortless. With the chair legs also wrapped in fabric, the whole chair is cocooned in upholstery lending a tactile element to dining rooms.





### Location 17

#### Story 4, Nutmeg Fever

In the 1830s, nutmeg was the big cash crop everyone was excited about. By 1848, there were 24 plantations with about 56,000 trees covering some 480 hectares across Singapore. Then disaster struck — a nutmeg blight broke out in Sumatra and spread to Penang and Singapore. By the mid-1860s, Singapore was carpeted in dying nutmeg trees, and so the plantations were divided up and sold for residential purposes. These documents record the sale of properties connected to nutmeg plantations established by European planters. One reference was the sale of land on Wilkie

of the Prinsep estate, a huge nutmeg and coffee plantation established by Charles Robert Prinsep. Part of the estate was later acquired by the government for a new governor's residence — today's Istana. Not everyone was so lucky.

William Cuppage's once thriving nutmeg plantation on Emerald Hill was converted into a fruit tree farm and sold to his prominent Eurasian son-in-law Edwin Koek. Things soured and Koek's fruit tree venture failed and he fled, leaving massive debts behind and dying a lonely pauper in New York.





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## Location 18

### *Story 5, Syed Omar Aljunied & The Arab Cosmopolitans*

Singapore's early Arab community comprised a small but important minority, and these three indentures illustrate their power and status. One influential figure was Syed Omar Aljunied, a man who belonged to the Hadhrami people, originally from Yemen in the Middle East, who had been trading in Southeast Asia since the mid-18th century. From the early days of the settlement, Aljunied emerged as a wealthy merchant and a community leader, who founded the town's first mosque and established its first Islamic burial ground. He proved himself to be an especially broad-minded philanthropist, donating land to Tan Tock Seng's hospital for Chinese paupers and the construction of St. Andrew's Cathedral. Other wealthy Arabs were among the first traders willing to take entrepreneurial risks in the mid-19th century; Arab-owned steamships became a common sight in Singapore harbour. Several of these vessels

belonged to Alsagoff and Alkaff (also prominent Hadhrami families).

Their business thrived on providing transportation for pilgrims going to Mecca on the annual haj. By the 1890s, Singapore became the main departure point for pilgrims across Southeast Asia.



Image Source: The Sultan Mosque, [Roots.gov.sg](https://roots.gov.sg), Accessed 18 Nov. 2023.





## Location 19

### *Story 6, Jewel of the East & Its Struggles*

In the last decades of the 19th century, Singapore had become a teeming metropolis with a growing population of some 200,000 people, thanks to the opening of the Suez Canal and advances in steamship technology. Though there were deep divisions at the time based on race and wealth, these three documents reference important role models in both the European and Chinese communities. One records a property transfer in Raffles Quay signed by Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Straits Settlements, and an accomplished Chinese scholar and admired administrator. He established the Queen's Scholarship, which allowed talented local students to pursue higher education in England. One of the first to benefit from the scholarship was Song Ong Siang, who went on to become a lawyer and the first Chinese in Malaya to be knighted by the

British. Another pillar of the Chinese community at the time was the wealthy merchant Cheang Hong Lim, known for his philanthropy. He donated the money to create the first public garden in crowded Chinatown — Hong Lim Green, which exists today as Hong Lim Park.



Image Source: Song Ong Siang by J. Wentscher, Courtesy of National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board, 1936.



Image Source: View of the Back of the Police Courts and Hong Lim Green, Roots.gov.sg, Accessed 18 Nov 2023.



Raffles Place Singapore







Assortment of photographs & vintage  
military uniform.

Location 20



*a. Slim Aarons Estate Print - Polo Party 1981 – Men's toilet*

Paul Butler, patriarch of one of America's foremost polo families, with his son, daughter, grandchildren and son-in-law, Palm Beach, April 1981. Left to right: Adam Butler, Reutie Butler Shober, Jorie and Michael Butler Kent, Paul Butler and Geoffrey Kent.



*b. Secunderabad 1895*

This is a photo of a group of eight gentlemen; Captain Arthur Bruit seated far left. Photographers' credit Lala Deen Dayal & Sons, Secunderabad and Deccan.



*c. Kashmir Polo tournament 1903*

Captain Arthur Bruit seated left, photographers' credit Holmes.





*d. Polo at Gulmarg in Kashmir*

This is a photo of a polo match in play at the Club and Polo Ground at Gulmarg in Kashmir.



*e. 1903 Polo tournament*

This is a photo of a group of polo players from the 1903 Polo tournament with the large trophy on the table in the middle of the shot.



Photo of Jacqueline Kennedy visiting  
Maharaja of Jaipur.







Location 21

## Isabel Bar

Isabel, the signature Bar at the Maxwell Reserve offers timeless elegance, luxury, glamour and intimacy. Indulge in a selection of the best hand-picked wines and champagnes, spirits and liquors from far and wide and specially curated cocktails.

### Highlights

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Louis Vuitton Trunk and Annabel Bust sculpture







a. Louis Vuitton Trunk

The series Lutz refers to as “Luxury Sculptures”, are based on the forms of Louis Vuitton trunks in combination with the box sculptures of Andy Warhol. Lutz began this series in 2008. The works aim to create a feedback loop. Where Warhol elevated consumer products like Brillo and Heinz Ketchup to Fine Art, Lutz now takes those artworks and debases them by making them luxury objects in his art practice. The works are constructed in the same manner as a genuine Vuitton, though in this case, Lutz has removed all functionality the original trunks would have provided. These are now closed systems only showing a surface of pure luxury. Each of these works are unique, hand painted, silkscreened and then hand tacked with hundreds of brass nails on hand-printed leather trim.



b. *Annabel Bust sculpture, 20th century*

Annabel Bust is a period portrait of a young lady. This lovely piece is easily noticeable at the Isabel Bar. Finished in a very soft pink marble. A stunning portrait sculpture of a beautiful country girl, foliage and flowers adorn her head, crisp deep detail throughout, and she is set upon a square socle.

## Location 22

### Story 7, *The Jewish Power Brokers*

The Jewish community has been in Singapore since the early years of British colonisation, a mix of Sephardi Jews from the Iberian Peninsula and Ashkenasi Jews from eastern Europe. The Jewish community in Singapore may have been small in number, but these land indentures show they were formidable businessmen. In 1873, the Jewish community bought land from the government on Church Street, now known as Waterloo Street, and built their main synagogue — the Maghain Aboth.

The only other synagogue, the Chesed-El Synagogue, was built a few decades later for Manasseh Meyer's family. A key figure in Singapore's early Jewish community, Meyer started an import-export business that grew into a major player. Meyer was knighted by the British in 1929 for his contributions to society. Meanwhile, the Germans Meyer Behr and Sigismund Behr, two brothers, also found fortune

in the East in the late 19th century with their company, Behr & Co., an import-export agency that traded in beer, wines and spirits, and then moved into the property market.

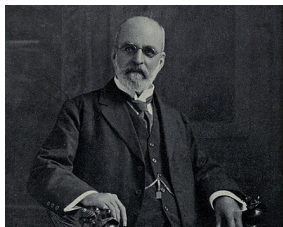


Image Source: Manasseh Meyer, Wikipedia, Accessed 18 Nov. 2023.



Image Source: Chesed-El Synagogue, Roots.gov.sg, Accessed 18 Nov. 2023.

Image (Right) Source: Oriental, Utai, Mexican: *The Story of the Singapore Jewish Community*, BiblioAsia NLB, Singapore.



THE MARK  
Maxwell Reserve Singapore



A black and white portrait of Eu Tong Sen, a prominent Chinese entrepreneur. He is wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a dark, high-collared jacket. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is a mottled, textured grey.

## Location 23

### *Story 8, The Legacy of Early Chinese Entrepreneurs*

Eu Tong Sen was born in Penang in 1877, the son of a prominent tin miner in Perak, Malaysia who founded Eu Yan Sang, a company specialising in Chinese medicine that's still in business today. Eu Tong Sen was sent to China for his education and returned to Malaya in 1891. He studied at the Anglo-Chinese School, became fluent in English and developed a taste for horse racing, cars and fancy European-style mansions. He expanded the family business and by the time he was 30 years old had become one of the richest merchants in the region.

An influential and philanthropic leader in his community, Eu supported a variety of social causes and focused on eradicating the scourges of the day gambling, prostitution and opium addiction. This trio of receipts from the 1940s and 1950s for rent paid on apartments and rooms owned by Eu Tong Sen Ltd. illustrates the family's far-reaching business concerns. The other indenture features a signature by Lee Wee Nam, another wealthy and philanthropic member of the Chinese community.

Image Source: Businessman Died 1941, Occupation, et al. 'Eu Tong Sen' - The Free Social Encyclopedia-Alchetron, 18 Aug. 2017



Image Source: Eu Yan Sang Building along South Bridge Road,  
Accessed 15 Nov. 2023.









Location 24

## Officers' Mess Polo Bar

Officers' Mess Polo Bar is a steak restaurant featuring some of the world's finest prime grade cuts of meats and seafood. The bar has its own world class wine cellar with a collection curated by an expert team of sommeliers.

### Highlights

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Hand-crafted saddle bar mural, Louis Vuitton Bar Trunk,  
custom chairs and vintage figurines



*a. Vintage Louis Vuitton Bar Trunk*

From Mr. Garcha/Ms. Bedi's travels, this 1920s Louis Vuitton trunk has been custom-made into a luxury mini bar. Considered as the most expensive vintage trunk in the property (Maxwell Reserve), this minibar was designed for those who appreciate the finer things in life.





*b. Louis XV leather swivel bar stool*

This French Louis XV style hand carved scoop-back swivel bar stool has an upholstered tooled leather seat & back, with scroll arms and legs along with a verdigris brass footrest.















Location 25

## Shikar

India has an ancient hunting tradition, known as shikar in Urdu, that was embraced by both royalty and tribal communities. During the colonial period, with the British royalty also avid hunters, an Anglo-Indian tradition of shikar took hold, with its own nuanced rules.

Shikar was an opportunity to display expertise in marksmanship and exercise one's equestrian skills, in addition to flexing one's social status. As Maxwell Reserve's flagship restaurant, Shikar pays homage to India's ages-old hunting culture by showcasing the culinary traditions of northern India.

With a dash of Western sensibility, Shikar presents a unique take on India's classic marinated meats, slow-cooked and aromatically spiced to perfection.

### Highlights

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Painting murals











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