

# STARTERS



## Hilton Shillim – Retreat to Nature's Abundance

One can make the journey, either from Bombay or Poona by road, to this abode of rich greenery enhanced with 5-star luxury. Nestled in the pristine wilderness of the 3,500-acre domain in the Shillim village of Pavana Nagar, the Hilton Shillim Estate Retreat & Spa will capture the senses; and if you make it during the monsoons, it is truly a place like no other.

That's 320 acres of a hitherto inconspicuous property set in a consistent minimalistic tone with a chance to literally lie in the lap of nature with 90+ villas – their sole accommodation – scattered across the landscape of forests, plantations and fields. So one can check into a *Forest View Villa* or a villa with a scenic valley view with private decks or beautiful balconies, else the *Spa Pool Villas* and the *Presidential Villas* are at your uber luxurious service.

Space seems to be a point much harped upon here, whether it be the GM, Andreas

Kraemer's elucidation on the division of the Estate into two zones: the Hotel and the Spa Zones

– the latter being the highlight with 70 acres dedicated to it offering 150 treatments to rejuvenate mind, body and spirit. Or as the Director of Marketing, Rajinder Prabhakar talks of one of the largest wine cellars in India to be launched soon, and the vast dining options that Hilton Shillim has to offer, one such being *The Green Table* – of 'health cuisine' from the Mediterranean and Asian regions in a tranquil setting – with an *al fresco* area as well; not to mention the use of golf carts to take you from villa to restaurant to wherever you may desire on the property. The best of spa cuisine – organic, fresh produce, locally sourced, with flavourful touches aimed at the right nutrition – is what you will be served at the varied culinary spaces here, steered by the well-heeled Chef Shaik Basha. From all-day dining *Terrazzo* to the *Library Lounge* where one can partake of the neat collection while sipping on an organic beverage. From the *Shillim Bar* to *The Reserve* for a glass of red, say, from the *Chef's Table* where you get a private chef rustling up the perfect meal for a romantic

setting on the banks of a waterfall or the *Dining Prive* with select locations and themed dinners to add to the assortment.

A much-awaited venture by Hilton Hotels & Resorts, the Estate Retreat & Spa within the soothing milieu of the Sahyadri Mountain range in the Western Ghats saw fruit in January, 2013. Would you have imagined a serene, spacious, 'far from grandiose' resort like this to emerge in the midst of it all as the newest hilltop destination to retreat to? Probably not! So let the element of surprise take over as you surrender to a refreshingly lush experience, either within the silent confines of the *Meditation Cave* or with the indulgent *Yogurt Panna Cotta* and *Trio of Sorbet*, with a sugar spiral for a sweet finish!

Visit: [www.shillimretreatandspa.hilton.com](http://www.shillimretreatandspa.hilton.com)

