

Indian Accent is India's No. 1 in Tripadvisor Travellers Choice Awards 2014; Discovery of the Package: Villa Maria of Thiruvananthapuram at No. 4

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INDIAN ACCENT must be getting tired of awards and accolades, but it can't ignore this one. **Tripadvisor**, which, I believe, has the most credible and manipulation-resistant algorithm for assessing user-generated reviews, has named it India's No. 1 restaurant based on reviews and ratings given to it by consumers from around the world. The restaurant, powered by one of the country's most talented chefs, **Manish Mehrotra**, though, doesn't figure in the international Top 25.

The website has just released its list of **Travellers Choice Awards 2014** for 353 fine-dining restaurants, including the top 25 in the world, and dedicated lists for Asia, Canada, China, Europe, India, South America, South Pacific, the U.K. and the U.S. Award winners were determined using an algorithm that took into account the quantity and quality of reviews for restaurants worldwide, gathered over a 12-month period. A restaurant that gets more reviews doesn't necessarily merit a higher ranking. The quality of the reviews is the other key determining factor.

The big discovery of the list, which shows a bias for five-star hotels, is **Villa Maya** on Thiruvananthapuram's Old Airport Road. It is housed in a stunning location -- a restored 18th-century Dutch manor that used to serve as one of the four Arumana Ammaveedus maintained by the Travancore maharajas as residences for their royal consorts.

This one dates back probably to the time when Maharaja Karthika Thirunal Dharma Raja moved his capital from Padmanabhapuram to Thiruvananthapuram, taking along with him his four wives. One of them lived in the Arumana Ammaveedu that was reborn as the Villa Maya. The menu, following the old Spice Route, offers Indian, Moroccan and Italian specialities, which have won high praise from Tripadvisor India reviewers. And the average of their ratings is an impressive 4.6.

The other restaurants on the otherwise slightly predictable India's Top Ten list are:

Peshawri, ITC Maratha, Mumbai

Bukhara, ITC Maurya, New Delhi

Dakshin, Sheraton New Delhi at Saket

Dum Pukht, ITC Maurya, New Delhi

Karavalli, The Gateway Hotel, Residency Road, Bangalore

Thai Pavilion, Vivant by Taj President, Mumbai

Nawab Saheb, Renaissance Mumbai Convention Centre Hotel

Prego, The Westin, Hyderabad

Internationally, the Tripadvisor's Top 25 list starts with the universal favourite, El Celler de Can Roca at Girona in Spain, but then departs from the San Pellegrino World's Top 50 Restaurants to throw up some real surprises. Here's the complete list:

Midsummer House, Cambridge, U.K.

Maison Lameloise, Chagny, France

The French Cafe, Auckland, New Zealand

Alinea, Chicago (it's No. 1 on the U.S. list)

El Club Allard, Madrid

Epicure, Paris

Le Manoir Auz Quat Saisons, Great Milton, U.K.

Le Gavroche, London

Martin Berasategui, San Sebastian, Spain

Europea, Montreal, Canada

I Latina, Buenos Aire, Argentina

Voila Bistrot, Paraty, Brazil

Geranium, Copenhagen

Diverxo, Madrid, Spain

Kokkeriet, Copenhagen, Denmark

Restaurant Guy Savoy, Paris

Eleven Madison Park, New York City

Funky Gourmet, Athens, Greece

The Test Kitchen, Cape Town, South Africa

Temple Restaurant Beijing, China

Arambaru, Buenos Aire, Argentina

Restaurant Gary Danko, San Francisco, USA

Vue de Monde, Melbourne, Australia

Costes, Budapest, Hungary