

Reviews by Jane Teeling



India Chic: Hotels, Palaces, Havelis, Spas
by Inderjit Badhwar and Susan Leong (Bolding Books)

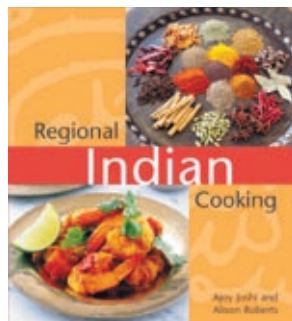
Whether you're high-rolling through India, or just determined to peel yourself off the pancake trail every so often, *India Chic* gives you the addresses of sleek and sultry accommodation across the subcontinent. Many are tied to the Taj and Oberoi hotel dynasties, but there are a few exquisite independent properties here, like prince-owned Ahilya Fort in Maheshwar with just 11 rooms and two tents. Historical/cultural contexts, scenic photos and site-seeing must's (but not the how-to's) paint quite the rosy picture of India - accurate for those doing it on the chic.



This title is available
from Asia Books:
asiabooks.com.

Regional India Cooking
by Ajoy Joshi and Alison Roberts (Periplus)

You can imagine that a country in which thousands of languages are spoken has an equal or greater number of tastes to cook for. Rightly so, then, that the emphasis here is on 'regional' (that is, north, south, east, west and central India) cuisine. Timing is everything here, and the authors step you through each curry and *daal*, lucidly deconstructing the myth that Indian food is but a haphazard assembly of sinus-clearing, belly-kicking spices. Quite interesting is the preface on the Ayurvedic principles determining how Indian dishes are assembled, consumed and digested, as well as which body types they benefit.

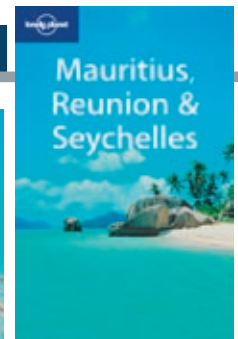
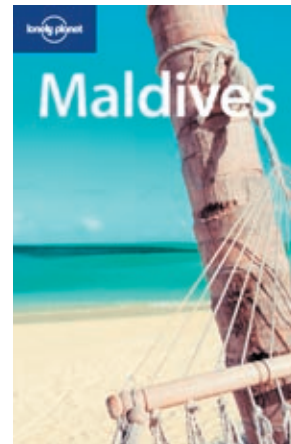


Sri Lanka Style: Tropical Design and Architecture
by Channa Daswatte, photography by Dominic Sansoni (Periplus)



If the Sri Lankan Tourist Board ever gets hold of this travel-gazers' tome they'll staple national medals of honour to the chests of those who assembled it. This homage to Sri Lankan style could raise arrival numbers on the photos alone, which give an eye-full of chequered floors, vaulted ceilings, crumbling terracotta roofs and bleached verandas long as afternoons. But it's not all cricket: anti-colonialists will enjoy chapters on 'Island Eclecticism' and 'Contemporary Interpretations', and there's plenty of scholarly merit to curry favour with architects and interior designers.

NOT A VERY LONELY PLANET



Lonely Planet Mauritius, Reunion & Seychelles

This fifth edition guidebook is a meaty one indeed, despite its slim size. With a food section penned by a leading authority on Mauritian cuisine, a doctor-advised Health section, and foolproof sample itineraries proffered by its island wise author, the book reads with genuine authority. Also useful are notes on local diving, as well as info on how one travels amongst these three regional hot-spots.

Lonely Planet Maldives

In a worthy attempt to keep pace with the rate of Maldivian property openings (which when calculated lies somewhere between the speeds of sound and light), sixth-edition Lonely Planet *Maldives* heroically includes a 'How to Choose a Resort' chapter, to help willing castaways make that ultimate decisions. Aquatics will appreciate the diving and snorkelling chapters; landlubbers the detailed insights into environmental and cultural issues; and every traveller the tips and information on sustainable travel.

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Periplus: tuttlepublishing.com.