

WE SAT UNDER THE PINE TREES, AND WE TALKED...

As I sit down to write this piece, a sense of euphoria takes over. In a state that is teeming with tourists during the 'peak season', it brings relief to know that there rests, far away from the cacophony, a place nestled away in between the Pine trees, where time stands still, and the world knows no chaos. Welcome to the Seven Pines in Kasauli.

An hour and half from Chandigarh and one is transported to the magical world of Kasauli. Why such an ornate description, like magical? It's just Kasauli after all. Well, because in my opinion this is the one place that manages to retain it's charm and sobriety even when the rest of Himachal is bursting at it's seams with restless tourists, in search of respite from the sweltering Great Indian Summer!

And somewhere in this magical, little land is tucked away the Seven Pines. Call it a home stay, call it a retreat, call it a colonial property. Call it what you want, and the place assumes the demeanour: Warm interiors, ample exteriors with breath taking views. Dine outside while taking in the views of flowers and peaks, snuggle up in the bedroom and read a book by the fireplace. Seven Pines will take care of the nature seeker in you, while effortlessly pleasing the soul that

seeks the comfort of snug blankets.

With gracious hosts making sure that your stay is an absolute comfortable one, Seven Pines is an ideal break from the city life. With huge glass windows lining up the rooms, giving generous views of the beauty outside and a comforting living room & library, the place is all that ones needs for rejuvenating the soul. Take a walk in the wilderness around, enjoy a lunch outdoors in the middle of pristine surroundings, indulge in





a session of yoga in the flower laden garden. Or you could walk around in the house and marvel at the many artefacts, read up a book by the window as you occasionally look up to steal a glance at the setting sun. Savour the piping hot, delicious home made food. Or simply sit by the fireplace and enjoy your hot chocolate & marshmallows.

The night sky in Kasauli can be mesmerise. Clear skies with

constellations gleaming down at you, with perhaps the same wonder with which you look up at them. The silhouette of the trees standing out against the back drop of Prussian Blue as the skies rapidly turn a shade of Black. Step out in the pristine gardens of Seven Pines and take a walk in the crisp mountain air. Surrender yourself to the silence that envelops the mountains as evening sets in. Wrap yourself in

something warm and rub your palms as the cool breeze gently caresses your 'city tired' limbs. Take a long walk and work up a good appetite before you settle down for a meal which you will overeat! Blame it on the cold

mountain air, blame it on the walk or blame it on the absolute tasty food that Seven Pines serves. Or simply give credit to the fact that all food at the Seven Pines is prepared using fresh vegetables from the kitchen garden and spices sourced from the local produce.

Seven Pines is ideal for family retreats or groups of friends seeking a weekend refuge from the city, or an enthusiastic bunch of musicians looking to create some great music together. Or you could be the writer in search of solitude to let ideas pour in for your next novel. OR, you could just be the life traveler, wishing to stop over and living a few moments differently. ☺

