

TIMELESS
CHETTINAD

VISALAM

A CGH EARTH PHOTOBOOK



UNCHANGING CHETTINAD



Step into the grandeur of a legacy. Visalam is a heritage Chettiar mansion preserved in time, where you get a peek into the rich, vibrant lifestyle of the erstwhile mercantile community. The art-deco interiors and architectural style of the mansion takes you back to 19th century Chettinad renowned for its palatial homes, fiery cuisine and colourful culture.



THE CHETTIAR LIFESTYLE

Visalam is a meticulously and passionately restored palatial home in the Kanadukathan village of Chettinad. Every little detail of the bygone era has been retained, to capture its spirit. Ornate doorways, marble platforms, woodworked ceilings and Athangudi-tiled floors greet you. And transport you to a time and place with an earthiness that lends an old-world charm to the experience.







SPICES OF LIFE

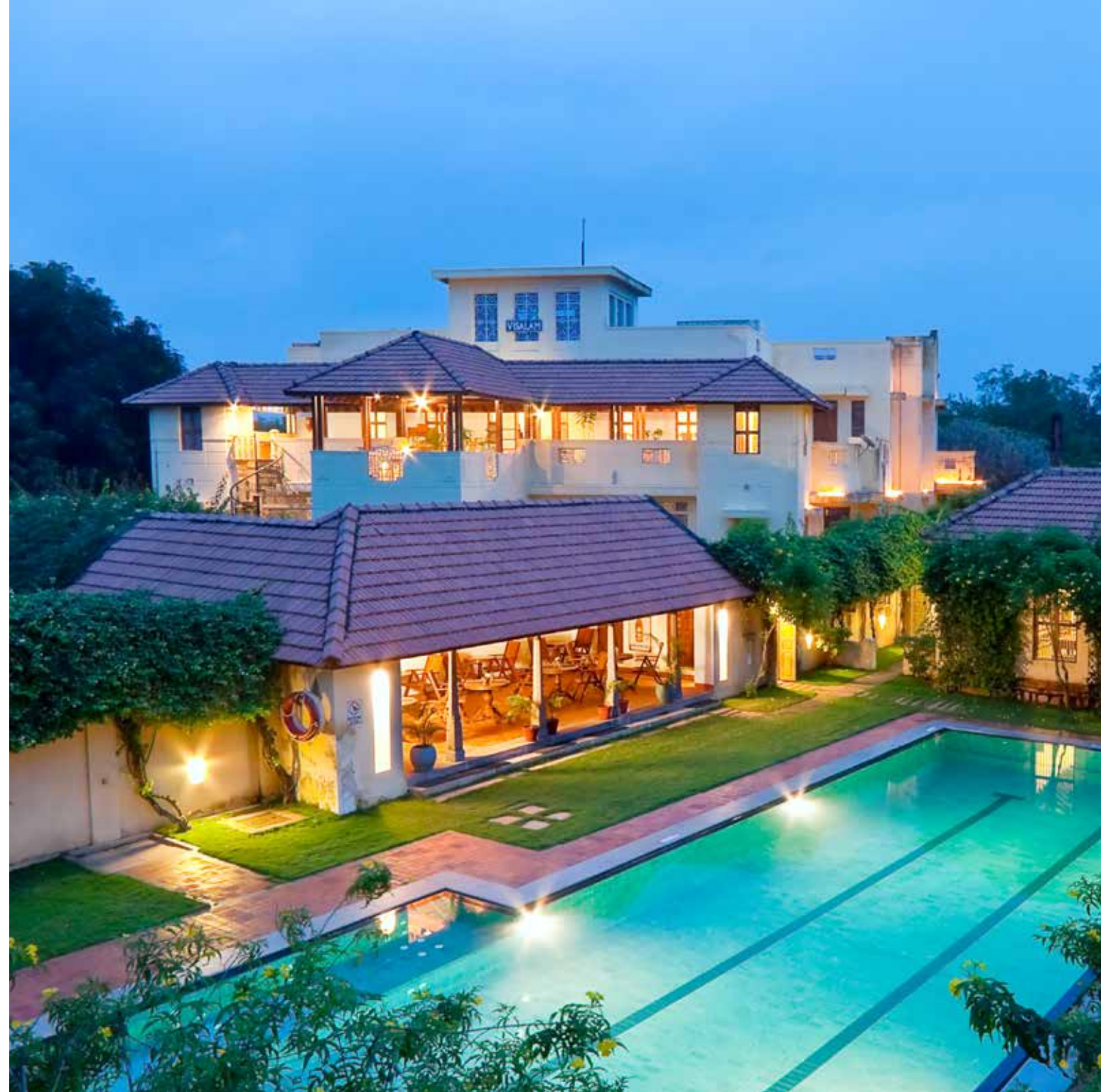
Chettinad cuisine is renowned for its spices and aromas, a taste bestowed by fresh ground masalas. At Visalam, traditional dishes are prepared with authentic recipes and the fresh catch of the day from the fishing villages along the Bay of Bengal. The kitchen contains a long wooden dining table that stands adjacent to a row of shelves, holding the original brass dowry vessels left there by the woman for whom the mansion was originally built for. Lunch is served on this table, or at the Sapad Sala – a large airconditioned room that can accommodate 32 people. Breakfast is served in the garden, under the bougainvillea pergola. The pool-side café serves light lunch and snacks from 11am to 6pm. For dinner, head to the rooftop terrace grill with a view of the starry sky.





UNWIND TIME

The mansion is a sanctuary from the mundane. Put your feet up and read a book in the quiet garden, relax by the pool or learn to play Pallanguzhi - a game from the past.





A RIDE TO REMEMBER

The favourite mode of transport in Chettinad is as old as the region. Hitch a ride on a bullock-cart or get on a bicycle to explore a timeless, thriving culture. On the eventful ride, you will come across snippets of history, crossing a weaver conjuring up magic, breezing past a busy farmers' market, witnessing artisans crafting sundried tiles, and an old Aachi preparing delicious murukkus. There is a lot of treasure to be discovered







GATHERING MEMORIES

As you step into the past, stop by at the farmers' market from where fresh produce is picked to make delectable cuisine for you. You can also take home souvenirs of the Chettiar legacy from the antique shops. The locals are warm, friendly and happy to help. They will add to the authentic, memorable experience of your trip.





LANDMARKS OF THE PAST

The streets of Chettinad are lined with temples and mansions that embody the majestic architecture of the era of the Chola kings. The temples bear intricate carvings on pillars and colourful idols of Gods. As you wander through the town, you will be walking in time experiencing a celebrated heritage in its full glory.

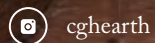



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