

In Good Taste

Decorating • Jewelry • Entertaining • Shopping • Travel

HOT SEAT

IN HER ELEMENT



At Jaipur's dazzling Suján Rajmahal Palace, jeweler **Shalini Kasliwal** talks more-is-more style, life-changing risks, and the most valuable thing she'll give her daughter (spoiler: it has nothing to do with jewelry).

↑ THE SOFA

"I definitely have a thing for emerald," says Kasliwal. The sofa's velvet upholstery echoes jewel tones found in the custom wallpaper designed by Adil Ahmad. Kasliwal's dress, Oscar de la Renta. Coat, Etro. All jewelry, The Gem Palace

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SHALINI KASLIWAL IS A MODERN-DAY ALCHEMIST. “I consider myself a classic experimenter, mixing elements of different cultures and generations,” says Kasliwal of her jewelry. As the global ambassador of her family’s storied jewelry house The Gem Palace (and CEO of Sanjay Kasliwal USA), Kasliwal, who was raised in Bologna, Italy, and Jaipur, India, by her Italian mother and Indian father, draws from her heritage to concoct bewitching amalgams of gem-studded flora and fauna with gold filigree and pavé techniques. “I’m also inspired by listening to my clients on what keeps them on the hunt.” Here are nine other secrets to her irresistible charm.

1. Visit my home, and you can definitely tell there is India in my blood. I love to decorate with exotic motifs, like Ikseel Decorative Arts wallpapers. Their designs mix together flora and fauna that, in reality, do not belong in the same place.

2. The biggest—and best—risk I’ve taken is moving from my hometown. Six years ago, I quit my job as a lawyer in Bologna, Italy, where I grew up, to move to New York and launch the first Gem Palace boutique in the U.S. I’m so glad I did it as it makes me appreciate my hometown, from the food to the scenery, even more when I visit.

3. There’s a huge component of unpredictability in jewelry making. Every rough stone is different, and sometimes a stone does not get cut the way you expected, and you find yourself working with a new scenario. It’s an incredible roller coaster, but knowing you’ll never do the same thing twice is what makes it exciting.

4. A room is incomplete without vibrant color and intoxicating fragrance. Diana Vreeland candles have both.

5. I never leave home without black kajal around my eyes. It’s my one makeup essential—mysterious, yet so versatile.

6. If I could preserve one art for the next generation, it would be hand manufacturing. I am privileged to be part of a company that supports old crafting techniques in the art of jewelry making and block-printing with my Shalia dresses.

7. One of the best things to shop for in Jaipur is table accessories—besides jewelry, of course! I am definitely a bazaar browser. Block-print tablecloths are a must, but I also love to hunt for brass pots and trays.

8. Being kind to every stranger you meet along your path is the most important thing I can teach my daughter. You never know where or with whom you may find the deepest connections—a lesson well illustrated

by the relationships between the characters in the best book I’ve ever read: *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery.

9. “More is more” is almost always the way to go with jewelry. I’ve long been inspired by Iris Apfel’s “more is more” wrist game. I like to pair my watch, which was a gift from my parents, with endless tennis bracelets or bangles. This is definitely a styling choice I got from her.



1. D-Dream wallpaper, from \$600/panel; ikseel.com. **2. Bologna, Italy, at sunset.** **3. Royal diamond and emerald earrings** in yellow gold, price upon request; sanjaykasliwal.com. **4. Diana Vreeland Devastatingly Chic candle**, \$90; neimanmarcus.com. **5. Stylo Yeux waterproof eyeliner**, \$33; chanel.com. **6. Champa dress**, \$250; worldofshalia.com. **7. Harvey bowl**, to the trade; worlds-away.com. **8. The Elegance of the Hedgehog** by Muriel Barbery, \$15; online and local booksellers. **9. 40mm Cosmograph Daytona watch** in yellow gold, \$39,350; rolex.com.