

Saturday, October 6, 2007

Luxury on river bank

When you say the word 'Kabini', the image that flashes in your mind is a forest, a river flowing by silently, herds of elephants and bison, and a prayer goes up seeking sighting of a tiger when you plan your visit! But now, you can add a comfortable stay to that list as well. Orange County Resorts & Hotels Ltd., has just launched its luxury resort in Kabini.

Orange County - Kabini is spread over 16 acres of land and has been built with an investment of Rs 20 crore.

The design of the resort, inspired by the mud-walled hadis (village) of the Kadu Kuruba tribe, is on the banks of the Kabini in Nagarahole forest.

Said Abe T Ramapuram, the vice-chairman of the resorts, "We hope to have a positive effect on society, environment and economy in any place we set up our resorts. Our motto is to develop luxury without disturbing nature and maintaining its sanctity.

Energy conservation

In keeping with the brand's key values, we have reduced use of plastic. We have provided a reverse osmosis plant in each room to provide safe, hy-



The pool hut at Orange County resort in Kabini.

genic drinking water, whose quality is comparable to the best mineral water.

This will enable us to reduce the negative impact of over 50,000 plastic bottles per annum.

"We are using windmill energy for entire supply of power in the resort and all our pools are ozonised, thereby doing away with use of chemicals to clean the water.

Our tribal theme extends to use of eco-friendly products innovatively, such as bamboo thatched roof, casuarina poles, bottlegourd shells for lamp-



An overview of the resort.

shades, etc."

Orange County - Kabini has on offer two kinds of accommodation — 26 jacuzzi huts, ie deluxe cottages with an open-to-sky private jacuzzi and 8 pool huts, ie luxury suites inclusive of private pools.

Signature design

The resort also has a signature spillover effect pool that seems to merge with the river, and a boardroom to seat 20 for corporate requirements. Jeep and boat safaris, nature walks and coracle rides make up for the rest of the

experience at the resort.

Jose T Ramapuram, director (marketing) of the resorts said, "We want to have more resorts in Karnataka.

We have acquired land at Hampi and are awaiting some clearances before commencing work. We are also looking at Karwar. Beyond Karnataka, our group will be interested in Kerala and Goa, but at a later stage.

As of now, we are looking at investments to the tune of Rs 100 crore."



The resort has used eco-friendly material for their interiors.