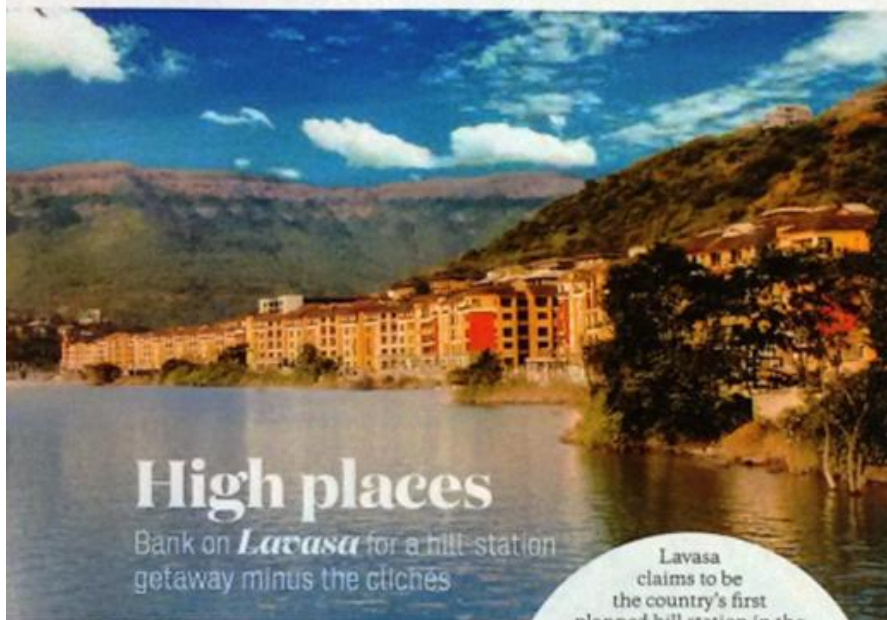


GET SOME ALONE TIME

If you stay at the verdant Ekaant retreat, you'll have a view of the whole town, with its rolling, lush hills and misty lake. The boutique hotel has 20 rooms, so you'll be happily secluded. There's a nature trail behind the retreat as well, which will lead you, for two hours, through a dense path that includes a butterfly garden and rare wildflowers.

Ekaant.com



High places

Bank on *Lavasa* for a hill-station getaway minus the clichés

Lavasa claims to be the country's first planned hill station in the post-independence era. Nestled among the Sahyadri hills, it's a stone's throw from Mumbai, but a total remove from the hustle and pollution of city life. If the colourful buildings overlooking the pristine Warasgaon lake seem familiar, that's because the town is modelled after the charming fishing village of Portofino, Italy.

Lavasa.com

GO ON A FOOD CRAWL

The restaurants lining the promenade along the lake promise to satiate almost any food craving: they have outposts of Delhi's fine-dining restaurant The Deck for Mediterranean grub, Oriental Octopus for pan-Asian, and The All American Diner for all-day breakfast and carby indulgences. If you want to stay close to the buzzing centre, book an apartment that overlooks the lake — The Waterfront Shaw has fully-furnished ones to make a long stay comfortable.

Waterfrontshaw.com



FIND BLISS



So your idea of relaxation involves a dark, scented room and no movement? Head to Karvi Spa at the Dasvino Club for a stress-evaporating four-hand massage, or pick from a menu of other beauty and wellness treats.

Dasvino.in



TAKE A LAKE BREAK

Get that wetsuit ready! Lakeshore Watersports will give adrenaline fiends a jet ski to ride across the lake, or if you prefer not to rock the boat too much, a pedal boat or kayak.

Lakeshoreindia.in

— SIMRAN BHALLA