

BEACH HOLIDAY

Golden Tulip Goa combines impeccable service with great amenities and some wonderful food. By Bindu Gopal Rao

SAY GOA AND IMAGES OF SUN, SAND

and surf crop up almost immediately to mind. However my recent visit to the Golden Tulip at Candolim in Goa brought another aspect to the forefront – service. And this was a factor that added a complete plus to my luxurious stay here. Right from when I was picked up at the airport, I could sense that this was going to be a different experience and I was proved right in more ways than one. On arriving at the hotel, instead of the usual garland, I was given a traditional welcome with a twist - a jasmine garland was tied around my wrist.

Located on the second floor, my room was spacious at 406 sq. ft. and faced

the pool. Done up in hues of beige and brown with hints of teal, the room had a king size bed with a comfortable pillow top and premium bedding. A 42" satellite LCD TV, high-speed, wireless Internet access, self-controlled cooling, electronic safe, and a fully stocked mini bar were part of the room. I was impressed to see an assortment of dry fruits and cookies lined up in glass cookie jars on a bed of sugar and the famed Goan Port wine as part of my room. The washroom was also large and had a cubicle shower area with the all kinds of toiletries and amenities. An affiliate of Groupe du Louvre, which is owned by Starwood Capital Group private equity firm, this is the 2nd

largest in Europe and 8th largest hotel chain in the world - something that I did not know till General Manager Pankaj Dubey told me. Each hotel combines the chain's commitment to high international standards with an offering of the local flavours making the stay as inspiring as it is pleasurable. The hotel has 52 rooms in different categories like the Superior Room (394 sq. ft.), Deluxe Room (400 sq. ft.) and the Imperial Room (406 sq. ft.). All the deluxe rooms face the pool. There are also six 2 bedroom apartments that are ideal if you are travelling with family or friends and are spacious at 1377 sq. ft. With two bed rooms, one king-size bed and another twin bed, two bathrooms,