

# Olive oil flavour spreads in India



Chief guest Kabir Bedi with Himani Dalmia.

By **Ashlin Mathew**  
in New Delhi

A SOOTHING blend of modernity and old-world charm ideally describes the Mediterranean evening on Friday at the Clarion Collection (Qutab) Hotel, hosted by V.N. Dalmia, the president of the Indian Olive Association (IOA), along with members of the executive council.

To celebrate the essence of olives, V.N. Dalmia welcomed the chief guest, Kabir Bedi, and the ambassadors of Greece, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia with potted olive plant. To satisfy his guests and add to the essence of the evening was an elaborate olive bar, gourmet food and chilled glasses of Italian beer.



Model Sahiba Singh was part of the guest list.

Emphasising on the importance of the event, Dalmia said that India is the fastest growing olive oil market in the world (data available till March 2013) with compounded annual growth rate of 46 per cent over the past five years. Throwing some statistics into the fray was Rajneesh Bhasin, IOA vice-president who added, "The total consumption of edible oil in India is more than 16 million tonnes", while recalling his Italian connections, said popularising olive oil in India is more than just a business venture.

What tantalised the palate of the guests were the olive pakodas and mushroom and olive fritters. Pizzas and paneer shashlik with olives also found plenty of takers. Seen around on the lawn were baby olive trees, which had been transported from a plantation in Rajasthan.



• Vesna and Anurag Jacob



• Uday Chawla, Purnima Dhawan, Shibani Chawla, Sarabjit



• Shovana and Herbert Traxl



• Meenakshi Dutt



• Vandana with Jaya Dixit Peralta



• Akash Premsen and Himani Dalmia



• Ramesh Sharma and Uma



• Hardy and Mandira Wirk



• Rajeev Khandelwal

## Buzzing movie affair

✦ To promote his upcoming film *Samrat & Co.*, actor Rajeev Khandelwal along with actress Madalsa Sharma, who is debuting with this film, visited Pangaea at the Hotel Ashok. Fans were seen cheering for the movie team.

• Madalsa Sharma



• Susana and Aykut Renda



## GLITZY SOIRÉE

✦ V.N. Dalmia, President of the Indian Olive Association (IOA), and members of its Executive Council hosted a dazzling Mediterranean evening recently at the Clarion Collection, Qutab Hotel.

With an elaborate olive bar consisting of many types of olives, food made in olive oil along with chilled Italian beer, guests were seen having a great time. The glitterati in attendance consisted of Ambassadors of Greece, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia along with Kabir Bedi, Shovana Narayan and Herbert Traxl, Dr Blossom Kochhar and Samantha, Uma Gajapati and Ramesh Sharma and more.



• Blossom and Samantha Kochhar



• Abha and Archana Dalmia



• Kamal Modi and Gopi Gajwani



• Tarek with Amay; (Right) Sahiba Singh



• Dyfed with Ekta



• Rachna K. Sandhu and Nalin Gupta



• Sanjeev Bhargava, Sunit Tandon, Siraj Chaudhry



• Lise and Freddy Svane



• Nalin Gupta and Manav Gupta

**look at that**

International actor Kabir Bedi was spotted at the Mediterranean event hosted by the IOA in the capital recently. Bedi who is known to have a strong fan following in the Mediterranean has starred in the the iconic European TV series, *Sandokan* and a *Knight of the Italian Republic*.



(L-R) H.E. Jorge Roza de Oliveira (Ambassador of Portugal to India), Sharon Lowen and V.N. Dalmia



Akash Premsen and Hirmani Dalmia

### MEDITERRANEAN SALUBRITY

The Indian Olive Association (IOA), presided by V.N. Dalmia, hosted its glitzy Annual Session at the Clarion Collection-Quatub in Delhi this April. Hosted by the members of the IOA's executive council, the event was replete with Mediterranean goodness and conviviality that included an elaborate olive bar with many types of olives, gourmet olive oil food and chilled glasses of Italian beer. As the beverage flowed, so did the conversation among

the many distinguished guests, prominent among whom were chief guest Kabir Bedi and the ambassadors of Greece, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia who were the guests of honour. The talk of the evening, however, were the baby olive trees (that had been brought from a plantation in Rajasthan) around which the delicious olive bar had been created by brands Borges, DeMonte and Leonardo Olives.



Raghavendra Rathore and Kabir Bedi



Alba Dalmia and Archana Dalmia Gulrajani



H.E. Gustavo de Aristegui (Ambassador of Spain to India) and H.E. Tarek Azouz (Ambassador of Tunisia to India)



Kamal Modi and Gopi Gajwani



(L-R) Sanjeev Bhargava, Sunil Tandon and Sriraj Chaudhry



Nasser Abdullah and Freddy Svane (Ambassador of Denmark to India) with wife Lisa



Blossom Kochhar and Samantha Kochhar



Dyfed Thomas and Ekta Chowdhry



Rachna Kohli Sandhu and Nalin Gupta

# Olives for all seasons

Photos: Samik Sen



Kabir Bedi (L) and VN Dalmia



SMILES FOR THE CAMERA: Himani Dalmia and Aakash Premisen



TURQUOISE LOVE: Sahiba



Blanca



Raghavendra Rathore



Nasser Abdullah



IN SHOCK: Yuri



Ramon Bleuca (L) & Jorge Roza de Oliveira



Lise and Freddy Svane

**ALL ABOUT OLIVES:** An interactive discussion session, lots of star-struck expats and a starter menu filled with olives marked the annual get-together of the Indian Olive Association, held recently in the capital. **Kabir Bedi** was the chief guest here, and the event had ambassadors from olive-rich countries like Tunisia, Portugal, Spain and Greece, talking about the growing popularity of olives and olive oil in India. **STAR-STRUCK DIPLOMATS:** We spoke to Bedi about his olive connection, and he said, "Ever since I was introduced to olive oil years ago, during a trip to Europe, I have become a complete olive man. It's a lifestyle difference that I'm proud of." During the evening, we were told that the Portuguese ambassador, **Jorge Roza de Oliveira**, was quite star-struck, and wanted to click a selfie with Bedi.

— Aanchal Tuli  
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Hardy and Mandira Wirk

# A Med Medley

Probably the last of Delhi's high-profile outdoor parties this spring, the VN Dalmia-hosted *Mediterranean Medley* at Clarion Collection New Delhi was an affair to remember. For the décor, baby olive trees were imported. An olive bar and Italian beer welcomed the guests, from Chief Guest Kabir Bedi to the ambassadors of Mediterranean countries.



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[Enlarge Image](#)

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