



ndawat was the first woman in
ly. Set around neat lawns, with a
Dera Rawatsar is a stylish place,
comes as a joyous surprise given
the main bus station. The ladies of
rsted elegance, light in feel and
areas, which are vast and silkily
bs, a rarity in India. Mother and
xed manner, run a happy staff and
ly can trace its origins back to the
claim to offer an authentic Rajput
don't disappoint and you'll be



Savista Retreat

Behold the Indian pastoral: acres of wheat fields, twittering birds, gardens, and hammocks swinging from shady fruit trees... then the old house itself, elegantly light and cooled by the breeze. Savista has its own adventurous storyline: 300 years ago, the heir to the Kacchawa throne ran away to set up his own kingdom here. Performances are encouraged, often musical with so many instruments to hand, and held on the amphitheatre steps. Old, rescued artefacts account for much of the furniture, while uncluttered bedrooms – Jasmine, Lapis Lazuli – are named according to their colours. A well-stocked gym and library stretch different muscle groups before a candlelit dinner (of your request) in the company of your wonderful, warm, cultured hosts. Bhanwar and his wife are deeply environmentally conscious, encouraging guests to share a car (which they will provide with driver), employing and buying locally, composting, water harvesting... Even the pool, set among palms and a beautifully twisted tree stump, is an irrigation resource. This is special in every way.