## Estate

## The Itmenaan At

## At Peace with Self

Itmenaan Estate in Kumaon, is the first from the series of small, intimate lodges that are planned to be launched under "Itmenaan Lodges" brand. Itmenaan can variously be defined to mean 'relaxation', 'at ease' or 'at peace'. Itmenaan Estate is set in a 10 acre farm in Kumaon Himalayas in a serene rural setting. It comprises of terraced fields, fruit orchards, forested patches and to top it all a private natural spring. The estate offers stunning views of snow capped Himalayas and lush valleys.

For accommodation, a 100 year old Kumoani house on the estate has been restored to a high standard of comfort and luxury. There are three tastefully decorated bedrooms each with an en-suite bathroom. The architecture is local with elegant slate, wood and mud roofs and walls constructed with local stone using "dry stack" technique without any cementing material. The mud plastering on the walls in the room provides that much needed insulation against the cold during the wintry nights of the Himalayas. The linen and mattresses in the room and the fittings in the bathrooms are of very high quality to ensure a comfortable stay. Each bedroom can be hired individually or one can book the entire house.

The food is an excellent mix of continental and Indian fare. It is hard to believe that one could savour some of the finest home baked cookies, breads and cakes in such a remote location. Each meal can be had on a different location on the estate.

The staff members on the property are from the local villages and have been trained in the ways of modern hospitality. Some of the villagers who helped in the renovation of the house have now become full time staff members. Many of the staff members on the estate are trained in first aid delivery. The estate has two stretchers and access to transport to be able to respond to any medical emergency in time. The nearest hospital is approximately an one hour's drive away.



