



Versatility in Hospitality Industry around the Globe A Case Study on Cuisines and Culture of Qatar

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Abstract: *The purpose of this research is to understand Qatar and explore the timeless culture and culinary aspects of the country Qatar. Qatar is located in the middle east, situated in the northern hemisphere as well as eastern hemisphere. Qatar shares boarder with two Asian countries and three water bodies. Qatar is a monarch country with a nomadic history, and most of its population consists more of Islamic people, but with a huge number of migrants peiring every year. Traditional cuisine in Qatar reflects the cultural diversity of the country, with many dishes influenced by Indian, Iranian and North African cuisines, while also borrowing national delicacies from across the Gulf. It is a perfect blend of all the countries and making Qatar's culinary world a perfectionist as it is now. The staple food there is sea food and dates which unique in its own way. The Qatari spice blend includes black pepper, coriander seeds, cinnamon sticks, clove, dried ginger, whole cardamom, dried red chili, and turmeric sticks which has influenced the globe. The architectural achievements are simply breath-taking and it's a reflection of their cultural values. This research gave me an opportunity to know the cuisine and culture of a less spoken country their dedication and respect for their religion definitely something to learn about. The deep rooted history of nomadic people and a great monarch will be carved on the books of history of generations..*

Keywords: Asida, architecture, Arabic coffee.

I. INTRODUCTION

Qatar, independent emirate on the west coast of the Persian Gulf. Occupying a small desert peninsula that extends northward from the larger Arabian Peninsula, it has been continuously but sparsely inhabited since prehistoric times. Following the rise of Islam, the region became subject to the Islamic caliphate; it later was ruled by a number of local and foreign dynasties before falling under the control of the Thani dynasty (ĀlThānī) in the 19th century.

Slightly smaller in area than the U.S. state of Connecticut, the Qatar peninsula is about 100 miles (160 km) from north to south, 50 miles (80 km) from east to west, and is generally rectangular in shape. It shares a border with eastern Saudi Arabia where the peninsula connects to the mainland and is north and west of the United Arab Emirates.

Soils in Qatar are marked by a small degree of organic material and are generally calcareous and agriculturally unproductive. Windblown sand dunes are common, and soil distribution over bedrock is light and uneven. Soil salinity is high in coastal regions and in agricultural regions where poor regulation of irrigation has led to increased salinity. In Qatar, the summers are long, sweltering, muggy, arid, and partly cloudy and the winters are comfortable, dry, windy, and mostly clear. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 58°F to 106°F and is rarely below 51°F or above 112°F.

Qatar's culture, tradition and history

The Qatari people are descendants of Bedouin; Arab speaking nomadic groups who lived in middle eastern deserts and maintained a tradition of generous hospitality.[1]Helal, Ahmed said, Qatari society tends to be fairly conservative in most aspects, which is a result of heavy influences from Islamic traditions. The official language of Qatar is Arabic. Despite this, English is widely spoken in the country and among the large expatriate community, Persian and Urdu are often spoken.

Islam is the official religion, and Qataris are largely Sunni Muslims. There is a small Shi minority. The ruling of the family (Al Thani) adheres to the same Wahhabi interpretation of Islam as the rulers of Saudi Arabia, though not as



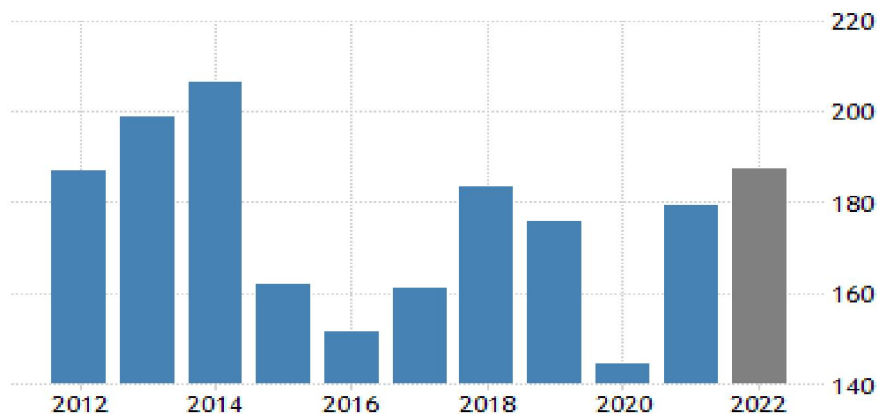
strictly. Women for example, have greater freedom in Qatar than in Saudi Arabia. The non-Qatari population has a more diverse religious makeup, with the Muslims, Christians, and Hindus constituting the largest religious groups.



Economy of Qatar

The economy of Qatar is one of the richest in the world based on GDP per capita, ranking generally among the top ten richest countries on world rankings for 2015 and 2016 data compiled by the World Bank, the United Nations, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The country's economy has grown despite sanctions by its neighbours, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Qatar's economic prosperity is derived from the extraction and export of petroleum—discovered in 1939 and first produced in 1949—and natural gas.

Before World War II Qatar's population engaged in pearling, fishing, and some trade (with little exception the only occupations available) and was one of the poorest in the world. As per [2] David Andrew Weinberg by the 1970s, however, native Qataris enjoyed one of the highest per capita incomes in the world, despite subsequent declines in income due to fluctuations in world oil prices.



Clothing and dress code in Qatar

Qatari society is heavily influenced by Islamic customs, therefore the dress code is generally traditional and conservative. Women and men wear the National dress. Qatari Arab men usually wear a flowing white full-length robe (thawb) – over trousers and an undershirt – with smart sandals and a keffiyeh (a white headscarf draped over the head) held on with a black rope. Meanwhile, Qatari Arab women wear a full-length black dress (abaya) – generally over Western clothing – but others wear the veil (hijab). Their traditional dress is often decorated with gold or silver embroidery.

Although still conservative, the dress for Qatari women is much less formal than in neighbouring Saudi Arabia. While local Qataris do wear traditional dress, they do not expect foreigners to do the same. However, there are certain dress codes that everyone should follow. Men should avoid wearing shorts and sleeveless shirts in the street. Women should avoid wearing revealing clothes that do not cover shoulders and knees, or that are tight or transparent, in public spaces. This dress code extends to public beaches. Both men and women should refrain from wearing bikinis and swimming suits. In spite of this, rules are more flexible at resorts and hotels, where guests can wear beach attire (except for tiny bikinis or thong bottoms, for example).



Traditional architecture of Qatar:-

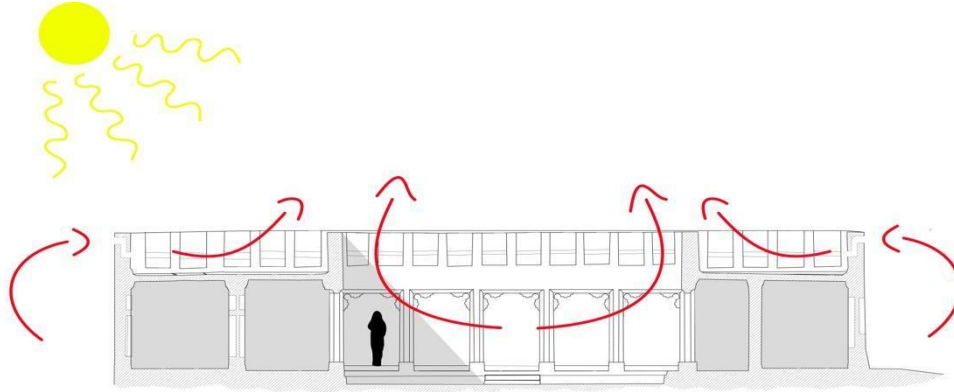
In Doha the traditional building material was a hard, locally sourced limestone. Walls were held together with packed mud, gravel and smaller stones instead of mortar. These walls were susceptible to erosion by the elements and had to be protected with a layer of gypsum based render. Heavy winter rain-storms could damage the building, so wooden water spouts often diverted the run-off from the roof into the street.

Round mangrove beams, wrapped in jute rope were used to support the lintels of doors and windows as well as the cross beams of the colonnade. The rope binding prevented the mangrove from splitting, and also created a surface onto which a decorative render could be applied





Badgheer is a form of traditional construction which channels air through a building in order to cool the inside of the structure. These design features create or take advantage of any cooling breeze in order to cool the house. The large open courtyard helps to promote the circulation of air around the building, and a series of openings around the base of their walls can create a cooling breeze in the summer. Similar horizontal air-gaps in the roof screen create air circulation and a cooling breeze.



Qatari cuisine:-

Drinks :-

- Arabic coffee
- Coffee brewed from dark roast coffee beans spiced with cardamom and served with dates.
- Karak
- Karak , also known as "tea with milk" or "chai milk", is a bright orange mixture with cardamom, saffron, and sugar. It is tea simmered with a mixture of spices along with some evaporated milk.
- Red tea with mint or saffron



Main dishes Qatari machbous

- Rice, meat, onions, and tomatoes mixed with spices. This dish is the local variation of kabsa.
- Kabsa
- Rice, meat, and vegetables mixed with spices. This dish is similar to biryani or pulao.
- Ghuzi - Whole roast lamb served over nutty rice. Also called shuwaa.
- Madrouba- Madrouba is a spicy and comforting Qatari porridge made with chicken, overcooked rice, and a plethora of flavorings such as turmeric, cumin, cardamom, ginger, cloves, cinnamon, garlic, and black pepper. It is recommended to serve madrouba while it is still piping hot, preferably garnished with fresh lime zest.
- Harees - Harees is a dish made from grinding wheat seeds and mixing it with the fat (ghee). Salt and water is added, and it can be prepared with chicken or meat.
- Jareesh - Jareesh is crushed wheat and is prepared with meat or chicken.
- Thareed -Thareed is a mixture of khobesrgag and broth, vegetable, and either chicken or meat.



Desserts

- Lugaimat -The ingredients used to create this sweet deep fried pastry are flour, milk, butter, sugar, saffron, and cardamom. After being fried and ready to be served, honey or a sweet syrup is poured on top of it.
- Khabees - Khabees is the name used for seedless dates that are soaked in water, combined with roasted flour, and mixed with sugar, oil, butter, saffron, cardamom and rose water.
- Asida - Asida is a sweet dish, that is made with flour, oil and sugar.
- Balaleet - Noodles cooked with sugar, cinnamon, saffron, and cardamom. There is often an omelette on top.
- Sago - Sweet gelatin pudding spiced with saffron and cardamom. The original recipe was created by Mohamed Fathi, an Egyptian scientist.
- Um Ali - Bread and rice pudding.





Dining etiquette in Qatar

Accepting invitations

Being invited to a Qatari's house is a great opportunity to experience a new culture and become acquainted with local people. And if the etiquette is followed in the right way, Qatar people tend to be very hospitable and friendly

Being a guest in someone's home

Once you are at the host's home, always remove your shoes when entering the majlis – the reception room for visitors – and accept (with your right hand) everything that your hosts offer you to eat or drink. In Arabic culture sharing a meal is a way to show affection and create bonds, therefore it is rude not to accept hospitality.

In restaurants

When eating in restaurants, you can call the waiter using the palm of your hand, but do not raise your index finger. In formal situations, pay attention to the seating arrangement. And, finally, arguing for the dinner bill is common, and a Qatari will usually win. The venue will often add a service charge to your bill, but if not, then a 10% tip is appropriate.

What makes Qatar's culture and cuisine different from the globe(Summary)

This warm country overall has a lot to offer to its tourists and citizens. Qatar is an Islam dominant country but still all religions are respected.

Its huge architectural achievements and economy is elating every year. In old traditional culture of Qatar where women were not allowed to work but now due to modernization women are getting chance to work along side with men.

The traditional attire is also a catchy feature in this country with men wearing robe and women wearing hijab it glorifies their culture and religion. Their limestone built traditional homes are providing shelter to many locals. As the largest mosque in Qatar, also known as the Qatar State Grand Mosque its simple lines and graceful arches are nonetheless eye-catching, and characteristic of Islamic architectural tradition.

The food in Qatar has been a pivotal part of the country's tradition and it is something that brings the people together. Be it festivals, social gatherings, or any kind of occasion, food remains the talk of the hour. In fact, Qatar is more than a thing or two to offer as far as traditional delicacies are concerned. The country's culinary world will leave you stranded, all the spices blended in together makes it more diverse.

II. CONCLUSION

The culture of Qatar is strongly influenced by traditional Bedouin culture, with less acute influence deriving from India, East Africa and elsewhere in the Persian Gulf. The peninsula's harsh climatic conditions compelled its inhabitants to turn to the sea for sustenance.

In Qatar, the old traditions and architecture of the Arabian desert cohabit with spectacular skylines, worldwide culinary spots, and fancy cars. Besides this, numerous job opportunities, along with the high quality of life, attract millions of foreigners to this sunny country. As a result, Qatar is today a fascinating cultural mosaic and home to the second-largest expat community in the world.

What makes Qatar so diverse and special the people of this country are accepting the modern ways of thinking and living Without forgetting about its glorious and eventful past, the country and the Qatari people are slowly striving and making active efforts to be forward thinking and are working hard to change its traditional image to the outside world, where the credit goes to [3]Adam Zeidan, In the Government and society section, updated the discussion of the political process.

While writing on this project I as a writer truly appreciate about how deep their cultural and traditional values are, the art, the architecture, the cuisine is exquisite. The way they changed their lifestyle from migratory to permanent resident due to modernization and simply adapting and understanding to different cultures around the globe but not disrespecting their own culture. For me it was a moment of epiphany when I learnt about its rich culture and cuisine and how it is gaining immense amount of tourists each day to visit their sacred land.

It was my honour and privilege to have had an opportunity to write about Qatar.

Thanking to all my professors who gave me an opportunity to write about such a diverse country.

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