



ROYAL MANSOUR
MARRAKECH

PRESS KIT



A UNIVERSE OF INSPIRATION
DISCOVER THE ROYAL MANSOUR
BEHIND MAGNIFICENT DOORS
A MASTERPIECE OF MOORISH-ANDALUSIAN ARCHITECTURE

THE MEDINA AND ITS GROUNDS
PRIVATE GARDENS: A MOROCCAN TRADITION

ROYAL MANSOUR'S RIADS: PRIVACY AND REFINEMENT
THE ART OF SERVICE

THE SPA
A 2 500 SQ/M SPACE ON THREE LEVELS, DEVOTED TO RELAXATION AND WELLBEING
MORE THAN 101 TREATMENTS

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A universe of inspiration

The Royal Mansour is the result of pure inspiration: a dream made real, and a spectacular recreation of a beautiful way of life. The very soul of Morocco is reflected in the fulfilment of this vision, one that is faithful to architectural tradition, and honours both heritage crafts and contemporary artistic talent. Yet its most memorable aspect is its sense of welcome – that’s where the real magic happens. Guests come away surprised and happy, charged with all the emotions of an exceptional experience.

Discover the Royal Mansour

Is this a palace? Is it an ancient medina? Walking down winding passageways, wandering among leafy courtyards, and tarrying in the gardens, you’ll find peace and pleasure. Welcome to Royal Mansour’s three and a half hectare estate, a haven of luxury and privacy in the heart of Marrakech.

Behind magnificent doors

Chiselled bronze, cedarwood, intricately carved horseshoe arches... This mighty portal can rival the grandest of the imperial cities. Yet, at the Royal Mansour, there are no copies. Everything you see represents the original creativity of a living tradition.

A masterpiece of Moorish-Andalusian architecture

The layout of the main building stays true to the style and symmetry of classical Moorish architecture, the exterior retaining a certain sobriety, while the interior pays homage to the virtuosity of Morocco’s artisan craftsmen. Distinctive geometric zellige tiles cover walls and pillars. Sleek tadelakt plaster gleams in contrast with intricate plasterwork. Wrought iron lamps compete for finesse with the carved wood of the doors.

The ingenuity of Moroccan design offers infinite combinations of colour and finish among the hallways and salons, each space given its own unique feel. The silvery floral motifs adorning the glowing glass bar contrast with gold-on-white foliage patterns on the ceiling; the wood panelling in the library displays the exquisite art of marquetry inlay.

The Royal Mansour’s role as a patron of traditional Moroccan arts and crafts is a vital aspect of its unique status among luxury hotels; with its 550-strong collection of paintings, the hotel also champions contemporary Moroccan artists.



The medina and its grounds

Rather than corridors, the Royal Mansour's 53 riads are connected by pathways within a private medina, where shrubs and flowers border the alleyways, and gardens bloom in inner courtyards. The landscape architect, Luis Vallejo, wanted to create a sophisticated tribute to the art of living, Moroccan-style. Lined with hundred-year-old olive-trees, Rue Abou Abbas El Sebti, the approach road to the hotel, gives access to three gates. The first takes guests to a courtyard of pomegranate trees, in front of the hotel and restaurants; the second to the spa, framed by orange trees. A third leads to the olive-tree courtyard next to the Grand Riad. Vallejo's charmed orchard is in keeping with Marrakech as an agricultural community, but remains entirely dedicated to pleasure.

Private gardens

A MOROCCAN TRADITION



Through the year, the garden is perfumed first by orange-flower, then honeysuckle, jasmine, roses and, in autumn, the subtle scent of oleasters, while daturas, bougainvillea and carnations bring colour. In a land of sunshine, there must be shade, so palm trees sway gently overhead, tracing their infinite patterns on the ground. There's not a sound to disturb guests' reveries, only the music of falling water, which plays such a vital role in any Moroccan garden. Water trickles, flows, cascades, leaps from fountains... Apart from this, all you will hear is birdsong.

Royal Mansour's riads

Privacy and refinement

Guests' riads are their own private domain, each accessed directly from one of the medina's many walkways. On the day of arrival, a butler will accompany you to your door – an austere portal with a magical world behind it. Across the hallway is an interior courtyard and, off that, a sitting room, bar and, in bigger riads, dining room. On the first floor, the bedrooms and bathrooms open onto a gallery looking down into the courtyard. Then there's your private roof terrace, with plunge pool, fireplace, and a tented space for private hammam treatments.



Each of the 53 riads has been individually furnished by craftsmen from Marrakech, Essaouira, Fès and Meknès, with wood panelling, zellige tiling, tadelakt and plasterwork demonstrating the infinite variety of Moroccan decorative arts. Every riad is different, owing to the selection of furniture and the way it is arranged, the choice of fabrics and colours, and the lighting design. Incorporated into these traditional interiors is cutting-edge tech designed to ensure guests' comfort, such as a touchscreen-controlled retractable glass roof poised to cover the courtyard terrace at the first drop of rain, or the smart air-con system, its workings invisible to the eye behind filigree plasterwork.

The art of service

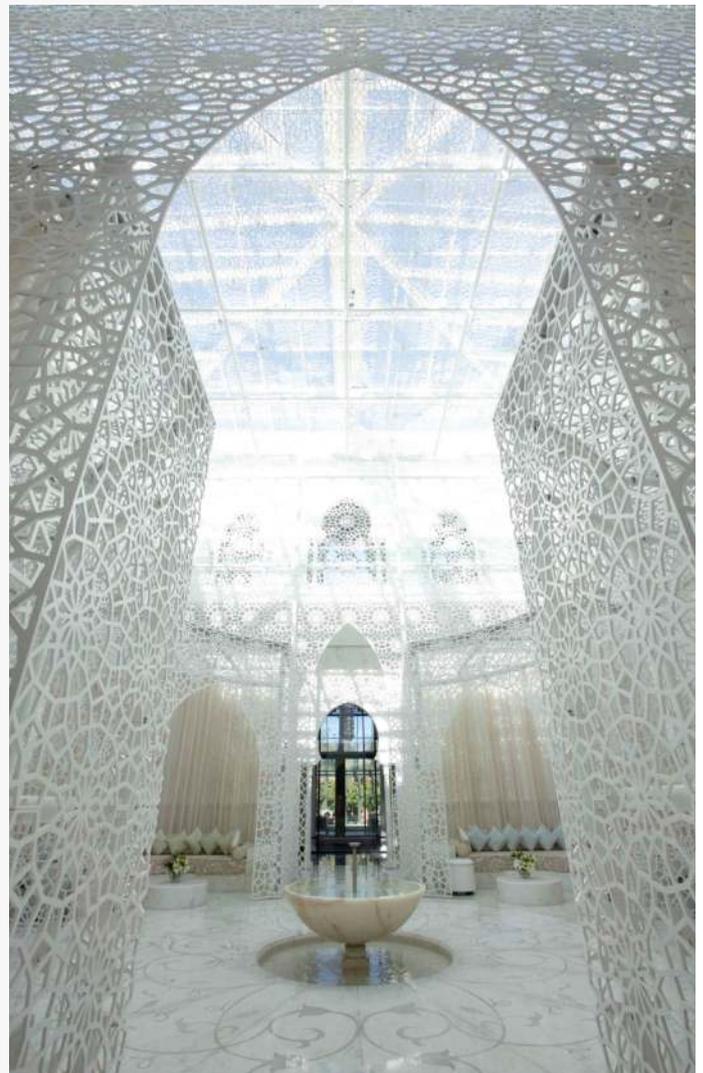
Guests tend to feel an instant connection with their private riad, spending a lot of time "at home" during their stay. The butler's role is to act as a kind of guardian angel for his charges, with back-up from a superb backstage team, who in turn rely on an ingenious system of underground tunnels. These allow staff to access the riads swiftly and discreetly, invisibly ensuring guests' comfort, and taking great care to respect their privacy. Thus the art of service at the Royal Mansour reaches a degree of refinement that goes above and beyond the traditional hotelier's rulebook.

The Spa

Bathing rituals are at the heart of traditional Moroccan culture; the physical wellbeing they bring to the body lightens soul and spirit. The Royal Mansour's spa is entered via an impressive atrium of whitewashed wrought iron, which evokes a giant birdcage. Its height and luminosity, with natural light pouring in from all angles, is striking yet calming.

A 2,500sq/m space on three levels, devoted to relaxation and wellbeing

Massage, facial treatments, hydrotherapy and body wraps take place on the first floor, where the private spa suites are located. The two hammams and relaxation area are on the ground floor, as well as a Watsu pool, and a tea salon serving light, healthy dishes, herbal teas and fruit juices. The hair salon and mani/pedi space occupy five private cabins. Japanese-designed chairs upholstered in white leather offer spa guests the ultimate comfort. The swimming pool, with its orangery-style glass roof, opens onto the gardens. Hidden beneath ground level is a handsome space dedicated to sports and fitness, with a coach on hand, and state-of-the-art equipment, plus a sauna. There's also a spa boutique selling jewellery and accessories.





Plus de 101 soins...

Every spa treatment starts off with a personalised consultation with specialist staff in one of the private alcoves off the spa atrium. Guests follow bespoke programmes adapted to their particular needs and fitness level, as well as advice on diet, exercise and lifestyle.

The Royal Mansour's expert spa team have selected the very finest products; the marocMaroc bodycare line, made in France using traditional Moroccan ingredients; for facial treatments, Dr Hauschka or Sisley products, according to skin type; Léonor Greyl's cult hair oil. Plus the spa has an exclusive on Chanel make-up and skincare. All products are available to buy in the spa boutique.

In the hammam

INDULGENCE AND REINVIGORATION

One or two rays of light pierce the semi-darkness. On the hot marble tiles, submit to the expert hands of a hammam attendant who specialises in the gommage body-scrub technique using black soap and loofah. Only the gentle splashing of water breaks the silence. Later, body cream and a hair masque are applied. Finally, in a quiet alcove, behind a moucharabieh wooden screen, enveloped in the softest linens, you drift into profound repose.

Spa suites

TREATMENTS AND RELAXATION IN PERFECT PRIVACY

Three suites allow guests to book a private space for treatments and relaxation, alone or with their partners. Royal Mansour chefs have devised light, healthy menus, to be enjoyed on the suites' private terraces, overlooking the ramparts of Marrakech.

Les restaurants

“At the Royal Mansour, every guest will find a cuisine to match his or her tastes: gastronomic, French, Moroccan, contemporary...” So says Yannick Alléno, the much-garlanded Parisian chef, who believes that variety is key to a truly enjoyable dining experience. This simple idea colours his approach to the three Tables at Royal Mansour, where his combination of tradition and creativity achieves elevated results.



TRADITION MEETS GASTRONOMY

LA GRANDE TABLE MAROCAINE

Since day one, Yannick Alléno has called on his chefs to make La Grande Table Marocaine a standardbearer for Morocco's culinary reputation. Their respect for tradition, understanding of Morocco's fertile terroir and its wonderful produce, and Alléno's celebrated savoir-faire make this one of the country's top gastronomic destinations. A meal here might begin with sh'hiwates, or Moroccan-style vegetable salad. Shoulder of lamb, a signature dish, has a melting quality conferred by slow cooking at low temperature. The tangia of gilthead bream with violet olives pairs subtly with bold flavour.



JUST ADD SUNSHINE

LA GRANDE TABLE FRANÇAISE

French dishes with a Moroccan slant and plenty of creativity, on a menu that changes often, yet always attains gastronomic excellence. For La Grande Table Française, chefs deploy the best Moroccan produce to bring a touch of the south to the French gastronomic ideal. For example, since we are in Marrakech, rather than Paris, the wine element of a sauce might be replaced with verjus made with grapes, citrus or tomato. Expect sun-soaked yet balanced cooking of great refinement, which extends to the elegance of the decor, porcelain, glassware and silverware... and, naturally, the wine list.



SIMPLE PLEASURES

LA TABLE

All day, from breakfast to dinner time, La Table offers light meals and snacks based on exceptional products prepared with perfect simplicity. Order lobster with a simple butter sauce, share a whole free-range chicken with creamy mashed potato, or go for a classic club sandwich or a caviar club. Don't miss the pâtisserie counter – as much of a treat for the eyes as for the palate. Guests can sit outdoors amid the heady scent of jasmine and gardenia, or in the shade beneath the loggia; the indoor dining room and private salons are also at your disposal.



DINING IN YOUR RIAD

You can also be served in your private riad, at any time of day. Whether it's an intimate supper for two or a gathering of family and friends, the menus of all three Tables are on offer, or you can liaise with one of the chefs to create a bespoke menu.

TIME TO RELAX

The Royal Mansour is a place where guests are encouraged to take their time and relax. Life at the hotel can be quiet and peaceful, then fun and lively, in turn. According to mood and time of day, guests are free to alternate solitude and calm with moments of joyful conviviality. These welcoming spaces suit both inclinations, and each is equally striking in terms of decor.





The Bar

Floor-to-ceiling mirrors coated in rose-gold leaf with foliage designs picked out in white-gold create infinite reflections, and the silvered motifs adorning the bar glow with a soft, diffused light. Relax into one of the art deco tub chairs with golden upholstery.

The fireplace lounge

Carved inlaid geometric patterns in the wood panelling, and screens with great cut-out sunflowers frame a view onto the garden, as seen through the transparent fireplace; logs seem to crackle away beneath the palm-trees. Relax to the sounds of the piano in a deeply comfortable leather club chair.

The cigar room

Amid exquisite sycamore panelling and mother-of-pearl tracery, a glass-topped marquetry cabinet displays the most beautiful cigars. Here, connoisseurs can gather over a cognac or an armagnac, to engage in casual chitchat or serious conversation.

The library

Lose yourself in Morocco's great literature, discover the decorative arts, explore the secrets of Marrakech, or consider an as-yet-unvisited region. Tear yourself away from the marquetry shelves to listen to the sound of water tinkling up from courtyard beneath, or look out over the Marrakech skyline.



AWARDS 2014/2015

2014

WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS - AFRICA'S LEADING LUXURY HOTEL VILLA
MOROCCO'S LEADING HOTEL VILLA

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2015

WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS - AFRICA'S LEADING LUXURY HOTEL VILLA
MOROCCO'S LEADING HOTEL VILLA
WORLD BOUTIQUE HOTEL AWARDS - AFRICA'S BEST CULINARY HOTEL
WORLD LUXURY HOTEL AWARDS

SHORT GLOSSARY

MOUCHARABIEH - CARVED WOODEN LATTICEWORK SCREEN WITH GEOMETRIC MOTIFS.

TADLAKT - LIME PLASTER MUCH USED IN MARRAKECH, WHICH GIVES WALLS AND SURFACES A SMOOTH, SHINY APPEARANCE, AND IS WATERPROOF, SO CAN BE USED IN HAMMAMS OR ON EXTERIORS.

TANGIA - A MEAT OR FISH DISH TRADITIONALLY COOKED IN A TERRACOTTA POT WITH A LID.

VERJUS - A SORT OF VINEGAR MADE FROM UNRIPE GRAPES, OR SOMETIMES CITRUS FRUIT, TOMATO, SORREL, PARSLEY, ETC.

ZELLIGE - ENAMELLED TERRACOTTA TILES WITH GEOMETRIC MOSAIC PATTERNS.



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