

BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT



A world of luxury awaits at the Royal Mansour in Marrakech. From picturesque rooftop terraces (far left), stunning Le Grande Table Francaise (left), extravagant lobby (above) beautifully decorated suites (below) and chic spa (bottom), the resort abounds with striking architectural designs and timelessly elegant interior which makes it an A-list and royal favourite

Private riads, personal butlers and fragrant Moorish gardens with the magical charm of Marrakesh. Welcome to the Royal Mansour where regal splendour reigns...

It's hard not to believe in love at first sight when you enter the majestic Royal Mansour. From the exquisite lobby to the Persian artefacts to the stunning mosaics, it's no wonder it's one of Marrakech's best-kept secrets.

Built at the behest of His Highness King Mohammed VI of Morocco to host guests of the royal family, it's an enchanting tale of how his vision to create a palace that showcases his country's hospitality as well as its affinity to art and design, led to him creating one of the world's most luxurious hotels.

Enlisting local and international artisans to achieve his dream property, the team worked for five years to complete the monumental work of art and it shows in the majestic splendour of the finest interior architecture and design.

Qatar's Sheikha Mozah, the Spanish royal family and Hollywood stars are among some of the most high profile guests who are whispered to have basked in the ambiance and enjoyed the privacy the retreat provides.

PRIVATE RIADS

This is the ultimate luxe retreat designed as a small medina [old town] within Marrakech's own vibrant medina. 53 terracotta-coloured riads with their own distinct characters, each three storeys and furnished with rich, vibrant colour schemes with silks, brocades and hand crafted furniture.

Discretion, decadence and intimacy reign in these mini private palaces which range from one to four bedrooms.

A butler is assigned to each riad to cater for guests' every whim and they carry out their duties while keeping out of sight using a discreet network of underground marble passages.

Arranged around a central open air courtyard each residence has a visitors' lobby, living room (complete with stationary personalised with the guests' names on the beautiful carved wooden desk) and a dining room as well as an outdoor patio. The luxurious bedrooms and master bedroom –

including a walk-in wardrobe, a bed fit for a queen, sunken bath and separate rain fall shower – are housed on the first floor.

The roof terraces with pool, sun loungers and cabanas are the perfect sun-drenched spot and the crowning glory of the riads with stunning views across the magical city of Marrakech.

REGAL DINING

Dine like an A-lister at the hotel's three superb restaurants – offering traditional Moroccan and gourmet cuisine – supervised by Michelin-starred chef Yannick Alleno.

Le Grande Table Marocaine executes timeless recipes with culinary newbies creating a marriage full of unforgettable dishes, while La Grande Table Francaise delivers a mouth-watering French experience. Breakfast and lunch is served under the shade of olive trees at The Table and guests can also enjoy three styles of afternoon tea at the resort – Moroccan, French and British – or relax in the Chimney Lounge in the evenings while jazz tunes tinkle from the piano.

TEMPLE TO WELLNESS

Set in the secluded leafy courtyard, the chic spa is a contemporary design marvel in itself

with the white lattice like structure created around an atrium bathed by the warm Moroccan sun.

The Escape Hammam is the undeniable star of the spa, invigorating even the weariest traveller as it uses secrets of ancient traditions to deliver smoother, silkier skin.

With over 101 treatments on offer, all which can be tailor-made, guests will be spoiled for choice before endless cups of delicious Moroccan mint tea are served in the sumptuous four poster rest beds (complete with curtains for privacy) post treatment.

The fragrant Moorish gardens, fountains, pools and Andalusian courtyards plus all the stunning touches create a tranquil haven. But it's really the phenomenal attention to detail throughout the lavish property including the stained glass windows and the mother-of-pearl embellishment that give this five-star hotel the real wow factor.

It's said time stands still at the Royal Mansour, but not for long enough... **H**

Weekend breaks at the Royal Mansour start from Dhs8,000. Romance packages which includes a three night stay start from Dhs11,000 Visit: Royalmansour.com Instagram: [@royalmansour](https://www.instagram.com/royalmansour)

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GETTING THERE:

FROM ABU DHABI TO CASABLANCA Etihad Airways fly from Abu Dhabi to Casablanca with prices starting from Dhs3,325 Economy and Dhs7,025 Business Class.

First and business class travellers can enjoy the perks of the world-renowned lounges relaxation areas, sumptuous cuisine and complimentary spa treatments to ensure the R&R starts well before you board the flight. FROM CASABLANCA TO MARRAKECH Guests are fast-tracked through security before your personal chauffeur takes you on the two-hour scenic drive to the resort.

