

HOTELS

WHERE TO STAY AND WHICH ROOMS TO BOOK

Since the 1990s, riads and the smaller *dars* (traditional courtyard houses) have been snapped up by foreigners and converted into high-spec *maisons d'hôte*, and Marrakech now has a dizzying array of accommodation – but do be choosy, as a zellige-tiled bathroom will do little to compensate for low water pressure. In the medina, [Riad de Tarabel](#) (8 derb Sraghna, T 05 24 39 17 06) is a stylish riff on the colonial, and the white-on-white aesthetic of [Riad Elisa](#) (21 rue Sidi El Yamani, T 06 00 06 70 67) sets it apart. [El Fenn](#) (2 derb Moullay Abdullah Ben Hezzian, T 05 24 44 12 10) is the jetsetters' choice, popular for its eclectic interior, superlative service and art stash. Impressive budget options are [P'tit Habibi](#) (59 bis Zaouia Sidi Bellabes, T 05 24 37 88 87), which blends Nordic simplicity and midcentury furniture, and [Riad Goloboy](#) (derb Mbarek, T 06 61 23 03 05), where pop art and graffiti meld with arabesque arches.

Guéliz and Hivernage offer contemporary properties, such as [The Pearl](#) (avenue Echouhada, T 05 24 42 42 42) and [Bab Hotel](#) (angle boulevard Mansour Eddahbi, T 05 24 43 52 50). You'll find the secluded oases [Dar Sabra](#) (Douar Abiad, T 05 24 32 91 72) and [Palais Namaskar](#) (see p022) in Palmeraie, and for a bucolic setting to boot, head to the outskirts and the revived Amanjena (route de Ouarzazate km12, T 05 24 39 90 00), the Selman (route d'Amizmiz km5, T 05 24 45 96 00) or the Mandarin Oriental (see p018).

For full addresses and room rates, see Resources.



Riad Mena

A serene bolthole tucked behind Jemaa El Fna, Riad Mena is elegantly hip. Owner Philomena Schurer Merckoll and designer Romain Michel Menière overhauled and consolidated two neighbouring properties over a seven-year period. Interiors feature polished plaster floors and pale terracotta *bejmat* (floor tiles), offset by bold-hued furnishings, such as the gleaming black Eero Saarinen table in the dining space,

and a red Arne Jacobsen 'Egg' seat in the lounge. Original elements, like the domed ceiling in the Eileen Gray suite, have been meticulously restored; the simple, stylish Traveller suite (above) benefits from a big tub. There is also a good-sized lap pool and a spacious rooftop, which is shaded by textiles from Marrakshi Life (see p090). *70 derb Jdid, T 05 24 38 18 28, www.riadmenaandbeyond.com*