

...a luxurious haven of peace and tranquillity.

## Dar Les Cigognes



THIS PAGE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): Sunsets in the courtyard are perfumed by citrus trees; multilingual hotel staff attend quickly to guests' every request; savour Moroccan mint tea and pastries on the rooftop terrace.

OPPOSITE (FROM LEFT): Every room is beautifully furnished and decorated with a unique theme; the sitting area of this Deluxe room is kept warm during winter by a cozy fireplace.

While exploring Marrakech's medina in 1999, two discerning travellers spied a dilapidated riad next to the Royal Palace. Many of its original features had been changed or removed, but the 17<sup>th</sup>-century walls remained authentic. For both of them, it was love at first sight. They acquired the riad and embarked on a mission to convert it into a spectacular boutique hotel.

Today, the proud owners have named it Dar Les Cigognes, or 'House of Storks', after the graceful birds that perch on the ramparts of the Royal Palace. Designed by one of Morocco's best architects, Charles Boccara, and decorated by the owners themselves, Dar Les Cigognes' every detail was carefully thought through and executed. Tiles were cut by hand, while ceilings were painted by craftsmen lying on their backs using tiny brushes. Tadelakt of varying hues is used throughout, and Moroccan artistic traditions guide the design of each room. In the owners' words, 'This is a handmade house.'

The result is a hotel with delightfully different rooms: the Harem room is draped in rich red velvet, the Berber room is peppered with Berber crafts and accessories, while the Casablanca room is Art Deco. Hand painted frescoes embellish the archways connecting the rooms. The hotel, comprising two traditional riads joined by a bridge, has 10 rooms and one suite.



Food is an important part of any visit to Morocco. At Dar Les Cigognes, guests are welcomed into the kitchen to watch the chef prepare pastries, meats, breads and the many other delicacies that are served here. Expect something different for dinner every day as the menu changes according to the



best produce available in the market. Meals are served in the impressive dining room with its tadelakt walls inscribed in a Koranic motif. Three large tables made from the original windows of the house each seat six.

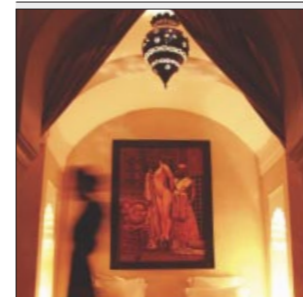
Not to be forgotten is the red marble hammam. It offers a changing room with a shower and jacuzzi, and can be booked exclusively by guests. In addition, there is the Fassi Beauty Spa. Enjoy a soothing massage

under the glimmer of a giant hanging lamp reflecting light off coloured glass on the arched ceiling. Following your hammam or spa treatment, relax in one of the open sitting areas around the courtyard laced with the scent of citrus trees. Or head to the rooftop terraces and soak up the ever breathtaking view of the Atlas Mountains.

A boutique situated in the bridge that connects the two wings of the hotel allows

guests to shop at their leisure, away from the hustle and bustle of the souks. Only carefully selected genuine Moroccan crafts are sold here, such as jewellery, kaftans, textiles and natural beauty products. Many pieces are in fact specially commissioned for the shop.

In the teeming medina of Marrakech, where merchants jostle with snake charmers and storytellers, Dar Les Cigognes is a luxurious haven of peace and tranquillity.



### FACTS

#### ROOMS FOOD DRINK FEATURES NEARBY CONTACT

3 Superior rooms • 7 Deluxe rooms • 1 Royal suite  
dining room: Moroccan, Mediterranean, with European on request  
wine list  
courtyard bhaus • rooftop terraces • salons • hammam • spa • library • boutique • private parking  
Djemaa El Fna square • Gueliz district • Koutoubia Mosque • souks • Royal golf course • Palmeraie Golf Palace • Amelkis golf course  
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