

maroc lodge

THIS PAGE: Take a break while exercising in the infinity-edge pool to fully appreciate the panoramic nature views.

OPPOSITE (FROM TOP): Quiet sitting areas scattered about the property are ideal for friendly discussions over light snacks; a traditional Berber design style holds sway throughout the property's buildings.



Just 45 minutes from Marrakech's airport, 1,000 m (3,280 ft) above sea level in the Atlas mountains, lies a slice of Moroccan history in the form of a discreet and exclusive hideaway which an emphasis on tranquillity. Here in quiet Amizmiz, Dr Dubois-Roquebert, personal physician to King Mohammed V, decided to set up home. The doctor welcomed the King to his estate and together they put Amizmiz and this charming villa on the map. When the King was

sent into exile, Dr Dubois-Roquebert continued to attend to him wherever he was. The doctor's children later converted their family home into Maroc Lodge and named the Lodge's pavilions after towns their father stayed in with the King.

The first thing that strikes you as you approach Maroc Lodge is the natural beauty surrounding the property. Not only is it at the foothills of the Atlas mountains, it is also set in a park that is home to an olive tree grove (some of the trees are over 100 years old) and countless other plants and trees, from walnut, almond and pomegranate to carob, lemon and orange. The shady green space, at once peaceful and tranquil, is charged with the natural aromas of the Berber countryside. A small canal runs through the grounds, the water drawn from a spring further up the mountain. The property makes a good base from which to explore Morocco's countryside; equally, it is a great place to take a break from the colourful chaos of Marrakech and pick up an immunity against the stresses of daily life.

Maroc Lodge's villas are scattered about the park, and a great deal of care was taken to ensure not one branch of the long-standing olive trees was broken—the villas have simply slipped in between. Each with large bay windows and sumptuous furnishings, they have their own terraces and breathtaking views of the mountains beyond. Inside, skilled artisans have decorated each pavilion with local materials. The pale pink bejmat floor tiles and the colourful zellij tile friezes on the walls are all

...offer their guests luxury in a way that is completely genuine and utterly unpretentious...



made in the village, and the tadelakt plaster walls are offset with walnut woodwork. It is Berber style through and through, excluding the original owner's collection of international artefacts that add a little personal charm.

The guest house facilities make excellent use of the surroundings: the infinity-edge pool seems to fall into the valley below, and the property's gardens provide the restaurant kitchen—which serves authentic Moroccan and European cuisine—with its primary ingredients. The home-grown ingredients are used for such Berber specialities as barley couscous, chicken tajine with honey, tanourt bread and delicious timija mint tea. Guests

can take their meals anywhere on the grounds, from the private dining area in each pavilion to the terrace, from the poolside to the restaurant itself.

In addition, the staff can organise guided tours for guests who wish to explore the area, either on foot or on horseback, with itineraries that vary from full day treks to two-hour walks. After that, the Lodge's hammam and massage therapists will help guests unwind. Capacity is purposefully kept small in order to keep service up to scratch, and the owners' and staff's competence is easily recognisable. They offer their guests luxury in a way that is completely genuine and utterly unpretentious.

rooms

4 pavilions

food

Moroccan and European

drink

Tananarive

features

infinity-edge pool • library • shop • hammam • spa • concierge service • shaded poolside • guided sporting activities • gardens • picturesque foothill location

nearby

Amizmiz weekly souk • Berber villages • High Atlas mountains

contact

BP 16, 42100 Amizmiz, Marrakech • telephone: +212.24.544.969 or +212.61.202.537 • facsimile: +212.37.727.179 • email: infos@maroc-lodge.com • website: www.maroc-lodge.com

