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PHOTOS: 17 Lost Cities That You Can Still Visit

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Morocco Forte (PHOTOS)





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Boutique hotel lovers who insist of the most stylish of stays will find Marrakesh to be pure gold says Juliet Kinsman, editor-in-chief of Mr & Mrs Smith.

Amid the mêlée of this Moroccan city's ancient medina, many of its riads - the name of the traditional houses with an inner courtyard - have been transformed into stylish hideaways. Not only do these intimate guesthouses provide pindrop-peaceful sanctuaries within the winding alleyways of the bustling

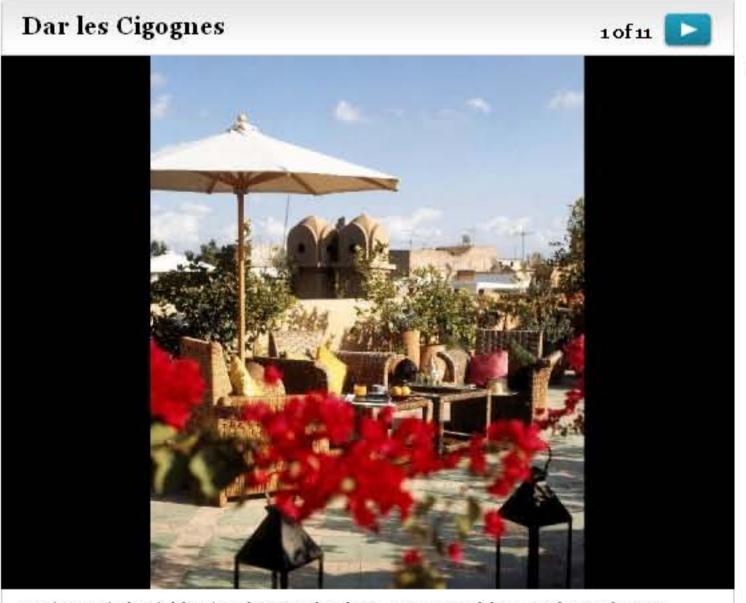


souks, these old-meets-new glamorous hideaways are fantastically chic. Some of this unique breed of bunk-up hail from a more-is-more school of interior design, festooned with rich fabrics and loaded with exotic embellishments. Others are sleekly minimalist, elegantly employing the local render of choice, tadelakt, the smooth polished plaster in pink and chocolate shades originally restricted to the hammams. The riads' rooftops, usually suntraps by day and candlelit perches by night, are atmospherically sound-tracked by the call to prayer, offering romance around the clock.

Have a favorite boutique hotel in Morocco? Send us pictures!

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Designer riad neighboring the Royal Palace, once a wealthy merchant's house. Behind a discreet door in the medina quarter, with the help of celebrity architect Charles Boccara, the owners of Dar Les Cigognes have turned two riads into a boutique hotel. Dar Les Cigognes translates as 'the storks' in French, as you can see them circling the skies.

Rooms Three superior, seven deluxe, one suite

Rates Low season, €160-€240; high season, €190-€350, excludes breakfast (€11 each for Continental). You can rent the entire riad for €2,100-€2,500 a night. There's an additional local tax of €3.50 a person a day.



