

MEDINA MAJESTY

BUILT BY HIS HIGHNESS Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, to be the most lavish hotel in Marrakech, the Royal Mansour opened its bronze-plated doors in June. For Mohammed's guests, the royal treatment begins at the airport, where they are ushered into a private air-conditioned immigration area before being transported to Marrakech's medina, or old city. The Royal Mansour lies just beyond the city's orange walls, unfolding like a mini medina across eight acres populated by palms and lemon trees.

The king prescribed no budget for his oasis, as evidenced by the meticulous detail in the Royal Mansour's 53 stand-alone



riads. The three-story accommodations feature works by Morocco's leading artisans, as well as private courtyards and rooftop plunge pools. Each riad is served by a butler, who, like all of the hotel's 500 staff members, uses underground tunnels and hidden elevators to navigate the property discreetly.

Staff and cuisine at the Royal Mansour's three restaurants are overseen by Michelin three-star chef Yannick Alléno. The property's spa—an extravagant 27,000-square-foot space—offers Moroccan treatments that are, quite literally, fit for a king. *Royal Mansour*, +212. 529.80.80.80, www.royalmansour.com —TERENA THYNE EISNER

