



**1 Maison de la Photographie**

This recently opened private museum in the middle of the Medina boasts more than 3,000 original photographs and glass plates of Morocco from 1870 until 1950 – the largest collection anywhere. There is a growing selection of spectacular reproductions to buy too.

[www.ecomuseeberbere.com](http://www.ecomuseeberbere.com)

**2 Riad Farnatchi**

The brainchild of a prominent British hotelier, this is the ultimate place to retreat from the crowd and burrow into the heart of the original Medina. The interior is a stylist's dream – cool and contemporary, not over-the-top exotic – and the service is impeccable.

[www.riadfarnatchi.com](http://www.riadfarnatchi.com)

**3 Arts in Marrakesh**

Marrakesh now has the most fashionable arts festival in all of North Africa, thanks to Vanessa Branson (Richard's younger sister) and her staff at the achingly hip Riad El Fenn. Recent highlights include Julian Schnabel, Kim Cattrall and a John Boorman retrospective. Riad el Fenn is the epicentre of the festival and, in the two-year gap before the next one, remains the riad of choice for cinema's elite.

[www.aimbiewennale.org](http://www.aimbiewennale.org)

**4 La Mamounia**

Blessed with the city's best private garden (more than 17 acres), this grand dame of the hotel world has just had a much needed facelift, giving it the ultimate haut-handicraft/ocean liner look. The nine-figure three-year restoration finally makes La Mamounia a worthy rival to the Amanjena on the outskirts, while Jean-Pierre Vigato, the Michelin star of Parisian Apicius, now provides the grandest French cuisine in the kingdom.

[www.mamounia.com](http://www.mamounia.com)

10

*things to do in*  
**MARRAKESH**

BY BRUCE PALLING



**5 Samanah Country Club**

The best of the many luxurious golf courses surrounding Marrakesh, and the first in North Africa to be designed by Jack Nicklaus. As it is brand new, the foliage and gardens are a tad sparse, but the setting and the golf are magnificent. There will eventually be hotels and £2m private villas for sale on the site.

[www.samanah.com](http://www.samanah.com)

**6 La Pause**

Daunted by the intensity of the city? Then hire a helicopter for the short trip to this stylish retreat at the edge of the desert in the Agafy Hills. Set in a kind of panoramic version of a Georgia O'Keefe landscape, it offers swish traditional adobe dwellings, or you can stay in a nomad's tent, do a spot of riding, have a feast in a dry riverbed and return to Marrakesh in the morning.

[www.lapause-marrakech.com](http://www.lapause-marrakech.com)

**7 Ultimate Personal Shopper**

Bordeaux-born Laetitia Trouillet exists to smooth away the hassles of haggling. She and Australian colleague Cassie Karinsky know every place in the Souk as well as the best designer shops. Some of their New York clients jet in for the

day and then get Laetitia to ship it all home later. Rates from €240 a day for two people, starting at dawn.

[laetitia.rouillet@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:laetitia.rouillet@yahoo.co.uk)

**8 Dar Yacout**

For once, myth and reality converge and this restaurant remains the best introduction to the city's magic. The décor is like a Fifties film set of the exotic Maghreb, with lanterns, log fires and rich carpets, plus belly dancers during dinner. Bring a good appetite.

00 212 (0) 524 38 29 29

**9 Night Ride**

There is no better way to observe the life of the Medina than in a traditional horse and buggy through the narrow alleys at night. Ask the driver for a tour and then deliver you to one of the best restaurants such as Le Comptoir, Yacout or Le Topsil. The concierge at your hotel will arrange it.

**10 Gallerie Rê**

The coolest place in the country to buy contemporary Moroccan art, located by the Central Market in Guéliz. It was started three years ago by Italian collector Lucien Viola, who now exhibits his top artists in Europe. Prices range from a few hundred pounds to £20,000.

[www.galriere.com](http://www.galriere.com)