

## VIEW WITH A ROOM

## WHERE ARE WE? VILLA ALKHOZAMA, MARRAKECH

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m WHY~WE~LOVE~IT}$  Pretty much every fashion magazine, model, stylist and editor in the world has done a shoot here. And if they haven't done a shoot here, then they've stayed here. And fallen in love with its hedonistic ways. It makes everyone dream of building their own Edenic retreat hidden away from the donkey-din of Marrakech in the cool Palmeraie, where fantastical visions seem to become real bricks and mortar. But the Ezzahra estate would be hard to beat. Beautiful green lawns stretch away towards a twinkling pool under the electric Kool-Aid purple blooms of jacaranda trees. There is badminton to be played, tortoises to chase, a huge Berber tent in the garden like a pleasure dome of forbidden nights, and shisha pipes and cocktails with mint that tickles your nose. Whatever the plan was here, they've nailed it. Outside fireplaces, masseurs on hand all day, every day, huge and wonderful rooms with baths that grow out of the wall like wishing wells. Although the main house has been up and running for more than a decade, the estate now grows, thrillingly, to include new, independent properties like this one, Villa Alkhozama, which has two bedrooms and its own stand-alone hammam. It is gorgeously done, and imaginative too, so that there's lots of slinking into this cool pool from the daybed in the heat of summer. Sleep here, if the night is tender, under the blast of a starry sky; nothing but birdsong will wake you in the morning. Go small or beautiful and take this house alone, or max out full-throttle and nab the whole lot for the best party ever. The staff here are such fun, so engaging and so delightful that everything appears, deliciously, in seconds. Plus, they've seen it all before. MELINDA STEVENS

Villa Alkhozama, four guests for two nights, £3,200. Ezzahra, 14 guests for seven nights, £28,900. Both prices include everything except wine. +212 661 221714; www.ezzahra-morocco.com

