

# KASBAH TAMADOT

SIR RICHARD BRANSON'S MOROCCAN RETREAT

## AN INTRODUCTION

### **Marhba – Welcome**

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Sir Richard Branson's Moroccan retreat, Kasbah Tamadot, is a 24 room magical walled building and divine hideaway situated in the spectacular Atlas Mountains, approximately 45 minutes drive from Marrakech Airport.

The award-winning Kasbah Tamadot, bought by Sir Richard Branson in 1998 during one of his famous ballooning expeditions, employs local Berber staff from the surrounding villages, giving guests a sense of staying in a Moroccan home rather than a hotel.

To the north of Kasbah Tamadot extends a steep river valley with sheer rocky limestone and forested mountains, contrasting with the view of the breathtaking snow-capped peaks of the Atlas Mountains on the southern side. To the east, across the river, you can see a traditional Berber village (Asni) built into the side of the mountain in keeping with the landscape. Within the grounds of Kasbah Tamadot is a beautiful garden of specimen fruit trees, a collection of cacti and a rambling rose garden.

### **History of Kasbah Tamadot**

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Kasbah Tamadot is now one of Morocco's most sought after hideaways, and its peaceful surroundings are reflected in the name, which means 'soft breeze' in Berber.

Kasbah Tamadot was the former home of Luciano Tempo who purchased the property and filled it with beautiful antiques from India, Africa and the Far East. In 1998 Richard Branson went to Morocco with the goal of circumnavigating the globe in a hot air balloon. Whilst there, his parents found a beautiful Kasbah and dreamed of turning it into a wonderful Moroccan retreat. Sadly, Richard did not quite manage to realise his goal on that occasion, his mother eventually convinced him to purchase the property.

The refurbishment of the building was extensive, though the character and charm of the original complex of spaces have been retained and enhanced. The design concept married traditional Moroccan colours, textures and patterns with a more contemporary treatment to the interior architecture. When Richard Branson bought Kasbah Tamadot, he also inherited Luciano's 1000 square metre warehouse in Asni, filled to the brim with his treasures. As you wander around you see pieces of Luciano's collection have been used to furnish the Kasbah today.

### **Atrah - Retreat**

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**Shared Spaces** - The extensive grounds are filled with staircases, courtyards and gardens. On the ground level are two internal courtyards, an indoor pool, the spa, a Hammam and access to the outdoor pool and the Master Suite. A main staircase leads up to a traditional Moroccan painted courtyard that surrounds a deep blue reflecting pool on the first floor. Opening from here are a series of bedrooms, a guest salon, the library and the restaurant. From our outdoor pool you can meander along pretty garden paths to our tennis courts. The rooftop is complete with breathtaking views and a seating area where drinks can be served.

**Outdoors** - The grounds have been planted with a huge variety of evergreen and flowering plants. Within the stepped landscape is the pool complex; an upper terrace is surrounded by Greek columns and features a bar, while a grand staircase leads down to the infinity pool, reflecting the sky and affording spectacular views to the valley below and mountains above. Surrounding the pool edge are loungers along with chairs and tables for relaxation throughout the day. Beyond the pool is the path that leads to the tennis courts and the Berber Tented Suites.

## Guest rooms

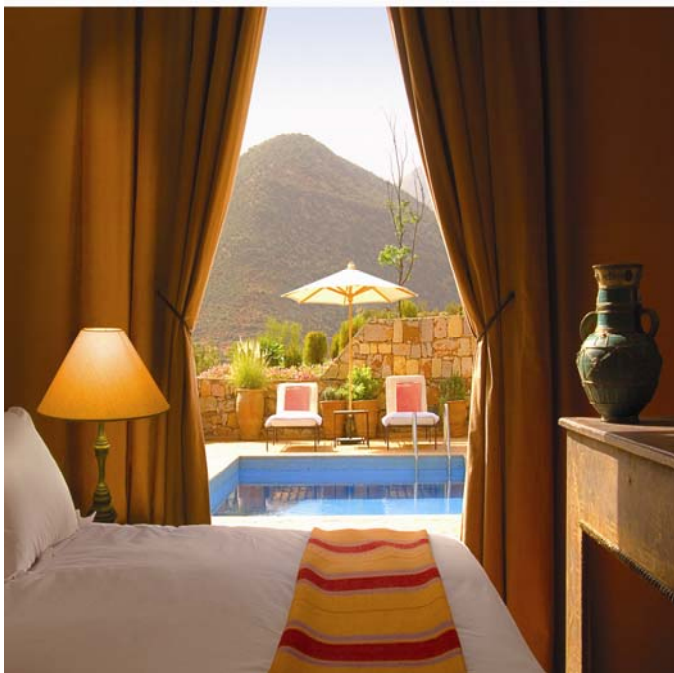
Kasbah Tamadot has 24 rooms and suites, consisting of:

- 15 beautiful rooms and suites in the Main Building – each with its own Berber name that tells you something about them
- One Master Suite, located a few minutes walk away at the end of the garden, which has three rooms including the Deluxe Pool Suite, and is generally hired privately as a three bedroom cottage
- Six Berber Tented Suites, launched in October 2008, perched on the hillside overlooking the pretty valley below and offering stunning views of the Atlas

Each of the 24 rooms and suites at Kasbah Tamadot have been individually decorated to reflect the beautiful architecture of the building and beautifully infuse the traditional charm of Moroccan design with contemporary elements. All rooms and suites feature antiques from all over the world.

### Tadoirit – The Master Suite (with Pool)

The Master Suite is a miniature version of Kasbah Tamadot sitting out on a promontory and featuring three special rooms. The building itself is rich in architectural detail and affords complete privacy. Within the Master Suite are a Deluxe Room and a Deluxe Suite at the lower level with a private pool and rooms that can interconnect. On the upper floor is a Superior Room with huge roof terrace. The Master Suite is perfect for a larger party, or those seeking a true escape. Rooms within the Master Suite are generally not sold separately until two months before arrival, depending on availability.



### Luxury Berber Tented Suites

Perched on the hillside overlooking a pretty valley below, the six Berber Tented Suites offer stunning views of the Atlas Mountains. Five of the suites are located a short stroll through the herb and vegetable garden beyond the three-bedroom Master Suite and all have views of Mount Toubkal, the Atlas' highest peak. The sixth can be seen as you approach the property and benefits from views of the sunsets over the valley. All are perfect for those looking for a little more privacy.

Each Berber Tented Suite has its own Berber name, every one with a special meaning - Afoulky (Beauty), Addou (Wind), Amalou (Shade), Azoka (Tree), Adrar (Mountain) and Azenzer (Ray of Sun).

Each Berber Tented Suite features a king-size bed, large bathtubs for soaking while you gaze over the mountains, a terrace with private plunge pool, sun loungers and outdoor dining. The luxurious tents are decorated in a similar style to the rooms in the main building, with Moroccan inspired furnishings, and come equipped with split air-conditioning/heating units to keep cool in summer and warm in winter.

### All rooms

All rooms are equipped with a well-stocked mini bar, bottled water, safety deposits box, Bose radio / CD player, 100s of CDs to choose from, hairdryer, hair straightener, plug adapters, umbrellas, sun hats, Moroccan slippers (called Babouches) which you're welcome to take with you when you leave and big windows with those amazing views. If you've brought your own music on an iPod, we have iPod leads and Bose ipod stations in all guest rooms. In each wardrobe you'll find blankets and Moroccan ponchos (called Bernous) to use during your stay.

Hypoallergenic pillows and duvets are available from reception on request as well as mattress toppers for extra padding to ensure a perfect night's sleep. If you fancy watching a bit of TV tucked up snugly in your role with your Babouches and a glass of something bubbly, we'll be happy to provide one. TV's come with a DVD player too so you can borrow one from a great selection available.

If you HAVE to check your emails or do some work during your stay, there are two computers in the Reception area for you to work or surf the net at no extra cost. You can also plug in your own laptop.

## DO NOT DISTURB

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Moroccan slippers are called babouches. These comfy slippers are hand made by the local craftsmen from beautiful Moroccan fabrics and leathers which are traditionally sold in the Medina. Babouches are usually worn by Moroccons when they are in your home, so when you're in your home at Kasbah Tamadot and don't want to be disturbed, just hang your red babouche outside your door to let us know you want some privacy. Please hang the green babouche on the door when you would like the room to be cleaned.

## Asanf – Escape

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Kasbah Tamadot is a magical place of rest and relaxation where you can do as much or as little as you like.

### INDOOR POOL

Take a dip or just relax by our indoor pool next to Asounfou, the Kasbah Tamadot Spa. Here a dark blue tiled pool offers views to the lushly planted garden outside, with loungers around the edge.

### OUTDOOR POOL

Or take a dip in the outdoor infinity pool, which is heated entirely by solar panels and offers spectacular views to the valley below and mountains above. You can order food and drinks from the pool bar and spend the day relaxing on the loungers surrounding the pool edge.

### GYMNASIUM

Situated by the main pool, the fully equipped gym has a running machine, step machine, bike, cross trainer, rowing machine, a multifunctional weight station as well as free weights, yoga mats and much more – everything you need to help get rid of any stresses or tensions.

### TENNIS

Kasbah Tamadot has two floodlit tennis courts, with racquets and tennis balls available at Reception, so you can blame the mesmerising views when you miss those smashes! If tennis isn't your thing, we also have a ping-pong table, with paddles and balls.

### ASOUNFOU – The KASBAH TAMADOT SPA

Asounfou, the Berber word for relaxation, describes the Kasbah Tamadot beauty treatment rooms perfectly.

The Kasbah Tamadot Spa incorporates the indoor pool, five treatment rooms, a sauna and a traditional Moroccan Hamman. Guests can indulge in a wonderful range of treatments using exclusive products, including Yon Ka and Aromatherapy Associates. If the weather permits, there is an outdoor treatment room set up in the grounds, perfect for couples who like a simultaneous massage. The view over the mountains is fantastic!

The traditional Moroccan-style Hammam cleansing ritual will deep cleanse, purify and soften the skin. Using a traditional soap derived from black olives is applied, this special exfoliation technique will leave your skin feeling soft and renewed.

### SALON

The salon is located next to the reflecting pool courtyard and has a library, a large flat screen TV, DVD Player and DVDs, games and a log fire to snuggle up next to.

## Akkinfaa – Bon Appetite

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### Kanoun Restaurant

With breathtaking views, Kanoun restaurant offers diners an intimate fireside bar for pre-dinner cocktails, a stunning dining area for delicious lunches and dinners. Kanoun is open for all hotel guests and casual lunch diners on request.

Kanoun restaurant serves a mouth-watering range of local and international cuisine and a great selection of international and Moroccan wines. The traditional Moroccan and Berber specialities served at Kanoun are a highlight of any stay at Kasbah Tamadot.

Diners can also choose to dine al fresco next to the beautiful infinity pool bar, on the rooftop terrace underneath the stars, or somewhere private just for two!

*The name "Kanoun" is the Berber word for the traditional freestanding charcoal-burning brazier of sun-baked clay used in Morocco. Here sauces, couscous and tagines simmer on glowing coals. They knead the dough in a "gssa", a round dish as big as a coffee table crafted locally of unglazed baked clay or carved oak, olive or walnut wood and prepare several loaves of the simple bread called "ksra".*

### Cooking Classes

Cooking classes are available for guests, during which one of the head chefs will instruct on the preparation of a three course dinner (either Moroccan or International). Guest can learn how to prepare traditional Moroccan and Berber dishes using the same methods that have been used for centuries, while tasting some selected wines. The course will last for three hours in the afternoon, after which guests will dine on what they prepared earlier.

### Can children visit Kasbah Tamadot

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Children of all ages are very welcome at Kasbah Tamadot for selected dates during the year. The dates for 2010 are: 26<sup>th</sup> March – 18<sup>th</sup> April; 1<sup>st</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> August; 15<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October; 18<sup>th</sup> December – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Infants stay free of charge providing they share with at least one adult. 1 child sharing a room with 2 adults will be charged 100 euros per night on top of the double occupancy rate. Children will be accommodated in the same room as the parents.

In some rooms we can accommodate children on rollaway or fold-out beds and can arrange babysitting at an additional cost. Special food and beverages or simple snacks and light meals can be prepared.

### Directions to Kasbah Tamadot

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Kasbah Tamadot is approximately 45-minutes drive South from Marrakech Airport and approximately one hour South from central Marrakech in the Atlas Mountains just beyond the village of Asni.

Morocco is served by direct flights from the UK and other major European hubs, with flight times to Marrakech of between 3-4 hours. Guests travelling from the US can connect either in Casablanca or a European hub as there are no direct flights to Marrakech.

Luxury car transfers between Marrakech airport and other points in the city to the Kasbah can be arranged.

### Can people get married at Kasbah Tamadot

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Unfortunately non residents are unable to be married or blessed in Morocco, but can still include Kasbah Tamadot in their wedding celebrations and visit us on our Honeymoon.

### When is the best time to Visit Kasbah Tamadot

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Whenever you like. The landscape will vary depending on the season, so each visit will give a different perspective on life in the Atlas Mountains. The average daytime temperature in Marrakech in summer can be as high as 38 oC/ 100 oF with a winter daytime average of between 18oF / 64 oF and 23 oC/73 oF. It is usually a few degrees cooler up in the mountains at Kasbah Tamadot, which can be a welcome respite when the summer sun is at its hottest.

## Kasbah Tamadot Rates

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These rates are quoted per room, per night and are based on two adults sharing a double room and are priced in Euros. This includes accommodation as detailed, breakfast and taxes.

	<b>High Season</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2010 – 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2010	
<b>Room Type</b>	<b>Double</b>	<b>Single</b>
Superior Room	€475.00	€430.00
Deluxe Room	€595.00	€550.00
Superior Suite	€670.00	€635.00
Deluxe Suite	€765.00	€725.00
Deluxe Pool Suite	€930.00	€890.00
Berber Tent with plunge pool	€1,150.00	€1,050.00
Master Suite (3 bedroom)	€1,870.00	

	<b>Low Season</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> November - 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2010 11 <sup>th</sup> January – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2011 1 <sup>st</sup> June – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2011	
<b>Room Type</b>	<b>Double</b>	<b>Single</b>
Superior Room	€395.00	€360.00
Deluxe Room	€525.00	€495.00
Superior Suite	€635.00	€600.00
Deluxe Suite	€695.00	€620.00
Deluxe Pool Suite	€840.00	€790.00
Berber Tent with plunge pool	€840.00	€790.00
Master Suite (3 bedroom)	€1,750.00	

Rates are subject to change at any time. Minimum stays may apply during the year.

Kasbah Tamadot is an ideal venue for groups and the entire property can be hired for private use. Rates for this are available on request.

For further information

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**Virgin Limited Edition Website**

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

**Kasbah Tamadot Website**

[www.kasbahamadot.virgin.com](http://www.kasbahamadot.virgin.com)

**How to book**

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