

TATLER[®]

TRAVEL GUIDE
2013

101
BEST
HOTELS
IN THE
WORLD

SADDLE UP

*Get set for the ride
of your life*

BY ZEUS!

*Greece's grooviest secret
—the epic Peloponnese*

CAST AWAY...

*Emma Freud falls
for the Philippines*

IN ASSOCIATION
WITH AFRICA TRAVEL



PALAIS NAMASKAR

MARRAKESH, MOROCCO

Forget the usual million-pieced mosaics and the painstakingly hand-carved hoardings. This place is all about space. Pure, true, straightforward space, punctuated with swaying palms, gnarly olive trees, swathes of bougainvillea and tumbling bowers of blue and white plumbago. There are archways and pools, and more archways and more pools, as far as you can see. Everything is twice the size it ought to be. Soaring columns, towering steel and plate-glass windows, huge charcoal-grey triple sunbeds, curtains that hang from towering ceilings (they're not the nicest fabric – couldn't they be linen?) and Murano chandeliers so colossal they touch the floor. And it's all yours. Villas, on their own gargantuan scale, are dotted among the endless slate-lined collections of water. You don't need to move from them. During the day, all is utterly peaceful and quiet, but at night there is a vibe, a gentle vibe. Cleverly, they have avoided the dreaded empty-dining-room syndrome by having just one restaurant. And what a restaurant it is. Plates of spiced seabass tagine, perfectly roasted quail, the freshest langoustines cooked with the lightest touch, followed by outrageous puddings, sticky and sweet. There are Ibiza beats playing in the bar, Cosmoroccans – mint-infused vodka and a blast of lemon – being served in icy-cold glasses by nice-as-pie staff, and a thrum, an energy, a sense of being in the right place. And then the roar of swallows' wings as the sun comes up, a rustle of bamboo in the breeze, candles still flickering in lanterns and red embers glowing in fireplaces. Very special indeed. **Website** palaisnamaskar.com **Book it** Abercrombie & Kent (0845 485 1143) offers three nights from £735, including flights, transfers and breakfast. ▷

VILLA LES CEDRES

CAP D'ANTIBES, FRANCE

Why do you stay here? Because Brad and Angelina do. That's why. Really, no other reason is necessary but here's a little more detail: the other private house to rent is off site, which frankly is missing the point entirely. If you want to spread out in a three-bed pad but still be at the heart of the action in the ultimate Riviera hotel, Villa Les Cèdres is your ticket. Hotel du Cap is Versailles and this is your very own Petit Trianon. Built in the Thirties, the house was originally a post office. It's done up in a Provençal style, verging on old-fashioned, but if you are used to acres of marble and solid gold everything this will be a welcome respite. It's where the super-rich go to play house – Wendy house – and it's adorable. There's a kitchen but you won't use it. There's a stunning view of the main hotel building and the highly manicured gardens, and while there's no eyeline to the sea, it's just there if you turn right. The GM is handsome, sophisticated and as absurdly charming as the rest of the staff. David Niven might just knock on your door to borrow a cup of sugar. This is where you check in when you want to impress the snobbiest people you know.

Website hotel-du-cap-eden-roc.com **Book it** Villa, from £4,140. *Easyjet* (easyjet.com) flies to Nice three times a day, from £70.

