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A shared escape

We might not be able to choose our relatives, but we can decide where we go on holiday... Whether it's a big birthday gathering or the annual family reunion, travelling together can be tricky (who could forget that *Succession* Tuscany trip?). Here's how to do group travel the right way



ABOVE: ONE OF THE KITCHENS AT LITTLE RED LOCK. ABOVE RIGHT: A VIEW OF THE HOUSE, CANAL AND SURROUNDING LAND. LEFT AND BELOW: INTERIORS OF LE JARDIN DES DOUARS. BOTTOM LEFT: A PRIVATE ALFRESCO DINING AREA AT THE VILLA



The one for the tagine-lovers

Nestled in fields of argan trees in the hills of Essaouira, overlooking the Ksob River, is the secluded oasis of Le Jardin des Douars hotel and its six luxurious villas, which offer a decadent group trip of warm rays and blue skies all year round. Each of the villas, which accommodate up to 14 guests, has its own outdoor heated swimming pool within a colourful tropical garden (along with a pétanque *terrain* and BBQ area, too). Inside you'll find traditional Moroccan antiques and interiors with colourful tiling so beautiful you'll want to take it home. Rooms are filled with boardgames, books and sound

systems to keep your crowd entertained. There's also a full kitchen, though don't feel you have to use it; each villa comes with a housekeeper, who can prepare everything from breakfast to chicken and almond tagines. Head over to the hotel's main buildings for a hammam or dinner with other guests. And for days when you want to escape, there's a shuttle service to local sand dunes for buggy rides and Essaouira's medina (just 15 minutes away by car), where you can fill your case with regional spices and ceramics. LENA DE CASPARIS jardindesdouars.com