

ultravel

YOUR GUIDE TO HEAVEN ON EARTH SUMMER 2016



One and a half times the size of Trafalgar Square, the villa might have been built to house Olympian gods

WHITE PYJAMAS BY OLIVIAVONHALLE.COM/UK; PINK DRESS BY ROKSANDA.COM; FLATS BY AQUAZZURA.COM

to the library and dining salon on the second – it's a very pleasant journey. And for those who don't want to exert any energy, the villa is dotted with discreetly placed lifts, an equally delightful way of getting around. Much larger than many resorts, there's always something extraordinary to explore: the spa, with its full-sized treatment rooms and yoga platform; or the poolside cabana, which has table football, pool table and jukebox; or the beach cabana, where guests can stay the night. The villa is also ideally set up for guests on a multi-generational holiday, with the numbers of spaces in which to escape: roof terraces for teenage pool parties, shaded verandas, orange lounge chairs. Having dedicated staff has its advantages, whether it's talking about local politics from the housekeeper, Zoe, or the best way to cook local Zeus fish from the chef, or the staff on hand to create Mediterranean feasts by the fire on the moon, on one of four dining tables... The resort offers a human experience, with all the high-end amenities of a new luxury hotel. Perhaps Makis was right after all.

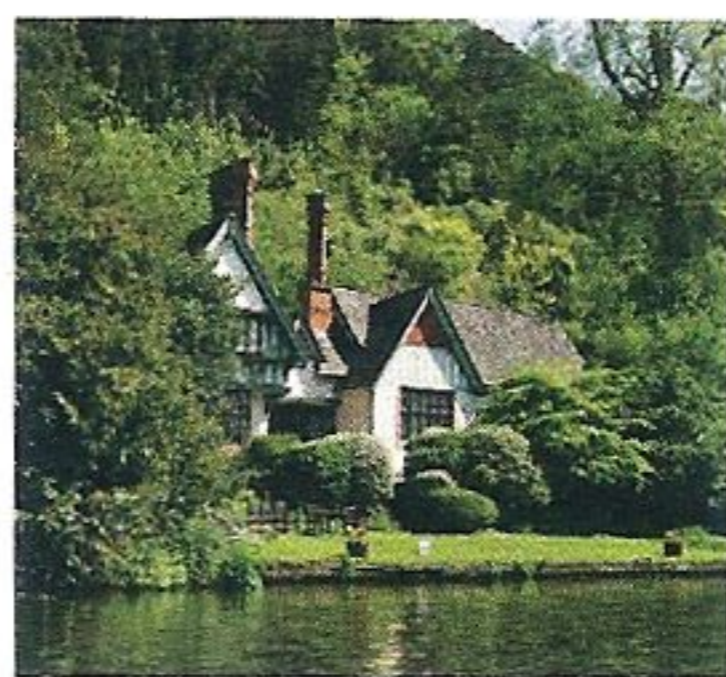
Johnny Morris

from £12,000 to £20,000 a night, b&b, sleeping 18; [resorts/amanzoe/villas](http://www.resorts/amanzoe/villas)

from butler to personal trainer, as well as an infinity pool, waterfall and private gardens. *Sleeps 12; from £11,825 a night; marbellaclub.com*

SPRING COTTAGE, CLIVEDEN, UK

Built on the banks of the Thames as a summer house for the Countess of Orkney, the idyllic 19th-century Spring Cottage (below) has a storied history: at the heart of the Profumo affair, it was where Stephen Ward and Christine Keeler would meet. In summer, there are vintage lunches on which to cruise and riverside gardens for champagne picnics. In colder weather, a snug with board games and traditional country kitchen – with, of course, duck-egg blue Aga – are cosy hideaways for lazy afternoons. *Sleeps six; from £2,025 a night; clivedenhouse.co.uk*



VILLA BASMAH, LE JARDIN DES DOUARS, MOROCCO

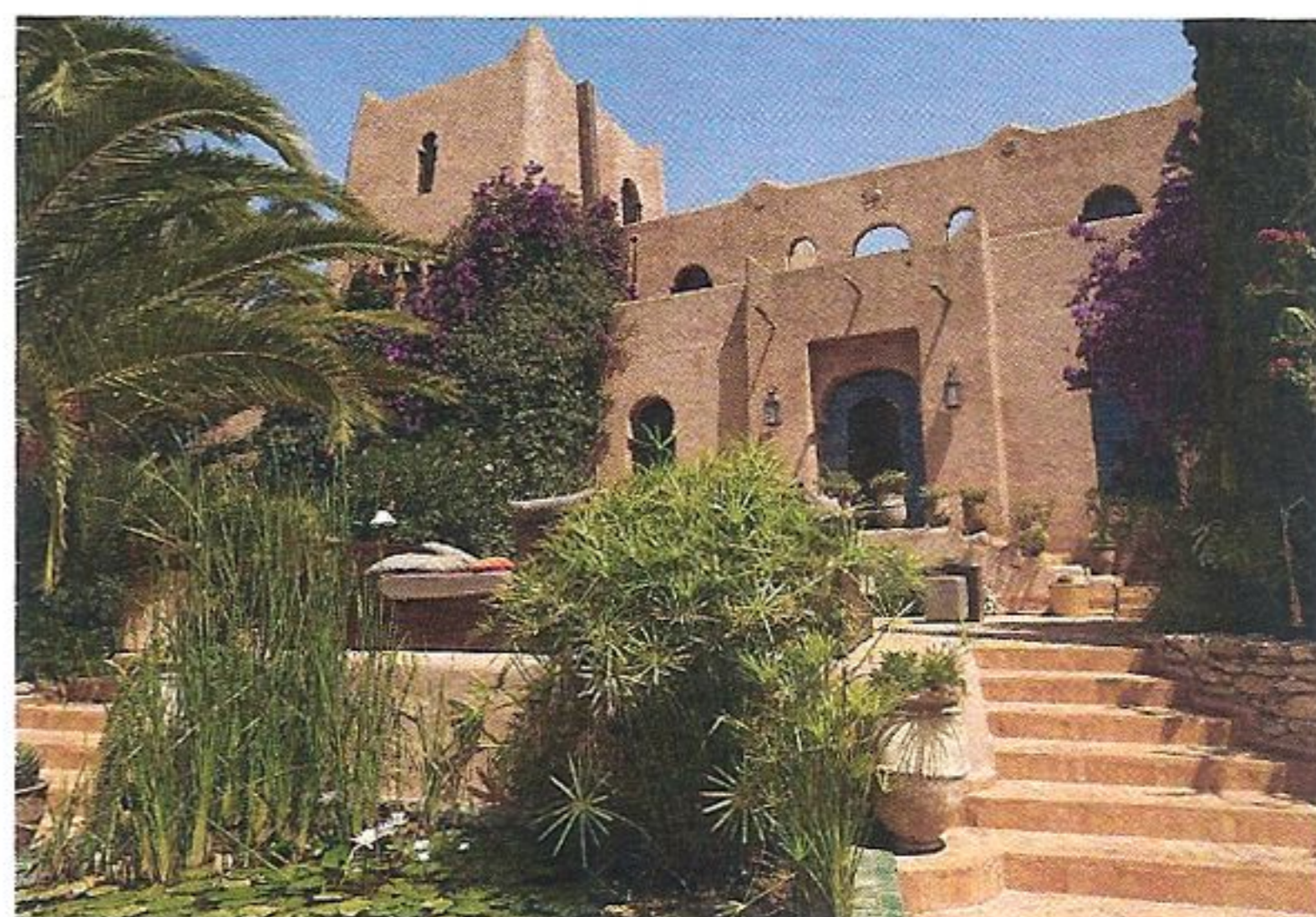
The sleepy seaside town of Essaouira is a world away from the mania of Marrakech, and the three capacious villas at the terracotta Le Jardin des Douars (right) are ideal spots for groups who want to escape. The largest, Villa Suite Basmah, is spacious enough to comfortably accommodate a multi-generational family, who can relax in private alcoves, then gather on the terrace, around the pool or

in the landscaped gardens for traditional feasts made by the villa's private chef. *Sleeps 10; from £390 a night, b&b; jardindesdouars.com*



NELSON MANDELA CENTRE, SOUTH AFRICA

Once the South African leader's private countryside retreat, the Nelson Mandela Centre for Reconciliation is in the Shambala Private Game Reserve in the country's north Limpopo Province. Although spotting Big Five creatures is the prime reason to stay anywhere else on the 10,000-hectare reserve, Mandela's home (above), filled with his personal possessions and favourite artworks, is a destination in its own right. Testament to that fact can be found in the property's guestbook, still on display and featuring lines of thanks from the likes of Bill Clinton and Oprah Winfrey. *Sleeps 12; from £3,230 a night; centreforreconciliation.co.za*



VILLA ROCKSTAR, EDEN ROCK, ST BARTHS

Though the denizens of St Barths have long been accustomed to celebrity visitors, those seeking anonymity still head to Eden Rock St Barths' Villa Rockstar (below). Flanked by a walled garden, and set alongside a beach, the property provides every conceivable amenity to party privately. Alongside the cinema, gym and pool (a facility strangely unavailable in the neighbouring hotel), the villa has a whiskey bar and recording studio fitted with the mixing console used by John Lennon to record *Imagine*. A dedicated butler and chef are also on hand



to clear up any rock-stars' post-party detritus and serve a late breakfast on the 12-person dining table. *Sleeps 10; from £6,300 a night, b&b; edenrockhotel.com*
John O'Ceallaigh