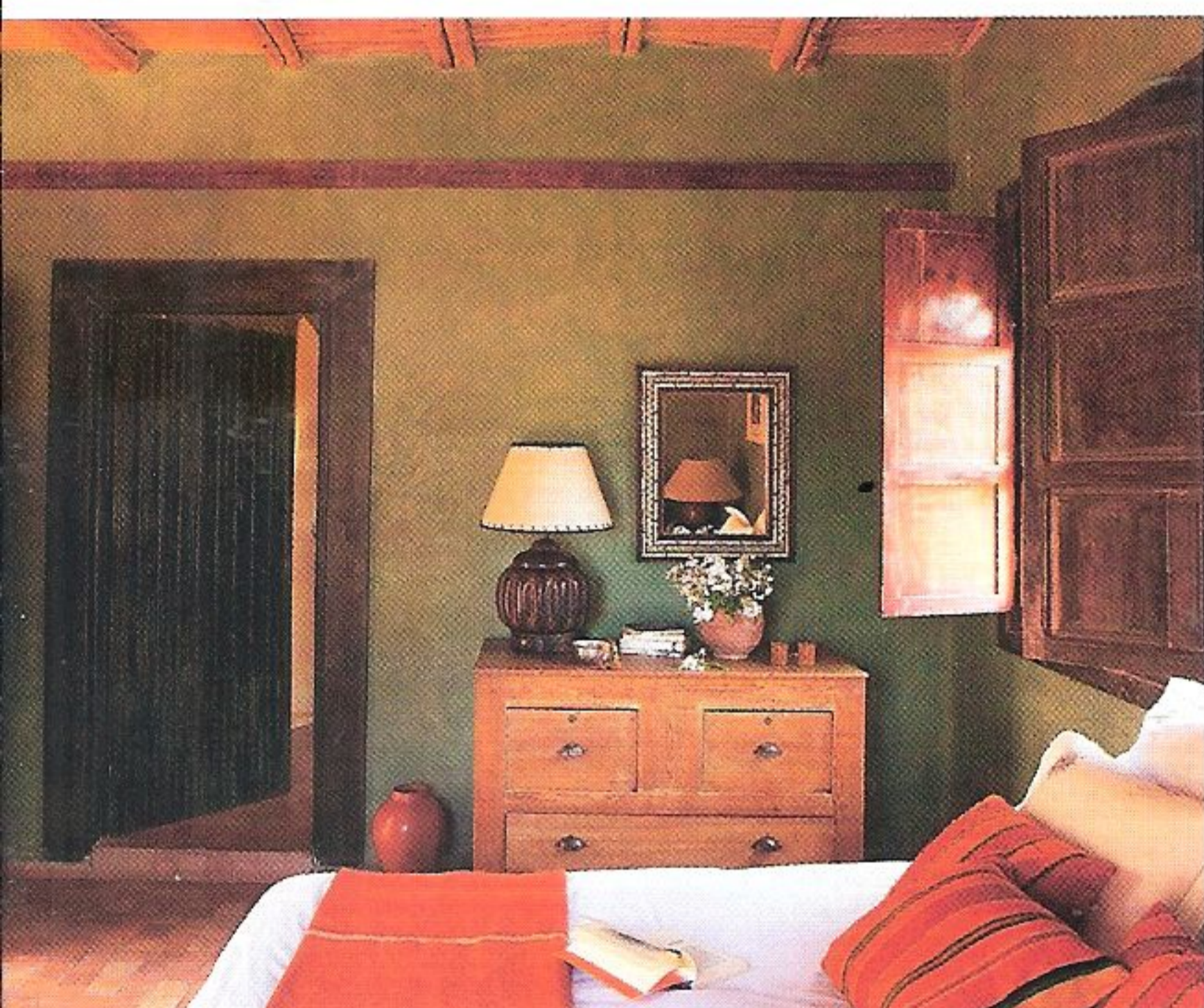
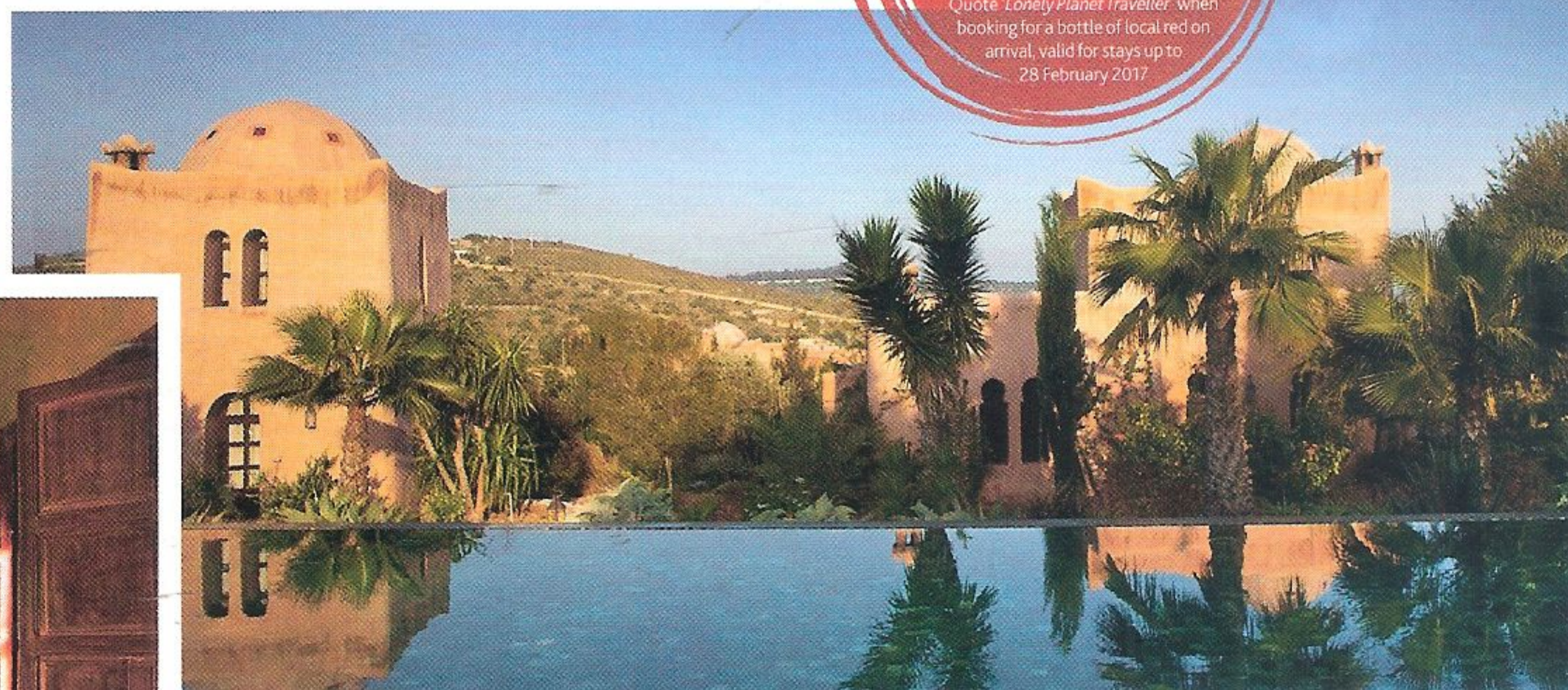


FREE!
BOTTLE OF WINE

Quote 'Lonely Planet Traveller' when booking for a bottle of local red on arrival, valid for stays up to 28 February 2017.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT A private terrace at one of the villas; the main building which houses some rooms and the restaurants; a carved wooden arch, with steps to the terrace; the adults-only pool; a mid-range Beldi Terrasse room

Andalucía festival, a celebration of the fusion of cultures in Morocco, with live music and dance performances, and exhibitions of Judeo-Moroccan art, runs from 27–30 October (facebook.com/FestivalDesAndalousiesAtlantiques).

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

To relax. With no televisions, telephones or mini bars in the rooms, you'll spend days reading on your terrace or by the pool (books can be borrowed from the library), wandering the botanical gardens and being pummelled in the onsite spa and hammam. Cocktails are served on the terrace at sunset.

WHAT'S MY ROOM LIKE?

Bedrooms are classically Moroccan in style, with zellige tiling, tadelakt plasterwork, Berber rugs and African artwork.

WHAT AM I EATING?

The seasonal menu is a mix of traditional Moroccan dishes, such as tajines and couscous, and French cuisine, all which you can see being prepared in the open kitchen. A weekly highlight is the Sunday barbecue, where fish, lamb chops and ribs of beef are grilled, and platters of salads and rice are brought to the tables.

GOOD TO KNOW

Le Jardin des Douars is a 20-minute drive from Essaouira, so you have to book a taxi into town or the hotel's shuttle bus service.

BEYOND THE FRONT DOOR

Head to Essaouira to walk the ramparts and enjoy a bird's eye view of the souqs, before heading down to browse the jewellery, art and woodwork for sale, and to watch the fishermen haul in the day's catch. The hotel also offers guided hikes in the countryside.

WHAT'S THE DAMAGE?

Rooms start at £95 per night including breakfast, going up to £310 for the palatial Suite Royale (jardindesdouars.com).

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

ESSAOUIRA, MOROCCO

Le Jardin des Douars

WHY ESSAOUIRA?

The ruggedly charming seaside town has fortified walls, crumbling ramparts and a unique quality of light that has long attracted artists. Its labyrinthine medina is home to souqs, art galleries and wood-carving workshops.

WHY LE JARDIN DES DOUARS?

Set just inland from the wind-battered coast, amid hills of gnarly argan trees (the oil from the nuts is prized), Le Jardin des Douars is a true retreat. The villas' sun-baked domes peek out above palms and bougainvillea alive with butterflies. There are two outdoor pools and a resident peacock who struts about the grounds.

WHY NOW?

Essaouira enjoys year-round sunshine but is at its loveliest in the autumn when the heat is less intense. The annual Atlantic