

Latest Articles

Daily news, articles and interviews with Dare 2

Riad Kaiss - A great starting point for a true Moroccan adventure

The first thing that strikes you upon arrival at the Riad Kaiss are the wonderfully welcoming and professional staff. Whisked inside to the stunning central courtyard, which was filled with the aroma of fresh flowers, while candles flickered gently, we were given cups of the traditional Moroccan mint tea, as we were checked in and shown around the property.



There are many different levels of accommodation, and it is pretty easy to get lost exploring the various outdoor staircases, courtyards, terraces and hall ways. Our room was on the second floor, looking over one of the courtyards. Simple, yet stylish, with a small open-air room at the back it . Flower petals covered the crisp sheets, and scented oils and perfumes decorated the bathroom. The one thing I will say about this room is that although it was wonderfully peaceful at night, the noises from the Kitchen in the morning resonated and echoed through the courtyard and it proved to be a pretty early and loud wake-up call! The rooms that I would recommend booking would be the deluxe private roof top villas, separate from the main hotel rooms, and lavished with private gardens and sun loungers.

The roof terrace can, however, be enjoyed but those not lucky enough to be booked into the private Villas. Riad Kaiss has created a multi-level roof-top haven, complete with serene swimming pool area, as well as multiple terraces with sun loungers, tables, and benches. It seemed incredibly peaceful, and as we sat at one of the tables on our first evening, enjoying a wonderful glass of Moroccan Chardonnay, we barely saw another guest. They have designed it to create an atmosphere of intimacy and privacy for its guests, and it worked.

The food was adequate- traditional Moroccan menu, although the tagine could have used a few less slugs of oil and the lamb/fig combo is pretty sweet. The aspect that I did really enjoy about staying in a Riad, over one of the large (and not particularly nice) international hotels, is the freedom they give you as a guest. There is no restaurant, there is no bar. Instead we were asked where we'd like to enjoy our glass of wine (we chose the roof terrace), our 3 course dinner (we chose the courtyard) and our breakfast (we reverted back to the roof). They will then create a perfect dining experience in your chosen location.

We were lucky enough to take a quick peek at Riad Kaiss' sister hotel, the Dar des Cigognes, named after the huge stalks nesting on the walls surrounding it. Dar des Cigognes is very different to Riad Kaiss. More typically Moroccan, with less ornate decoration and detail, but somehow almost more majestic. The rooms seemed a little more impressive, with a fantastic high-ceilinged spa room and a very impressive roof gardens (which can be hired for private parties).

Both Riads are blessed with fantastic staff and are wonderfully decorated. Located very near the action of the medina, yet blanketed in atmosphere of relaxation, they provide an ideal setting to enjoy Marrakech, and a great starting point for a true Moroccan adventure.

Doubles start from £154

www.riadkaiss.com

Posted: Monday 4 April 2011

 ShareThis

Follow us on



Twitter



Facebook



Blogger