

## 101 HOTELS

*Wander along a path in Villa Mabrouka's paradise garden to seek sanctuary by one of its two pools*



### VILLA MABROUKA *Tangier, Morocco*

As a scion of one of Britain's most prolific interiors dynasties, Jasper Conran has an unerring eye that gets everything beyond right. Only he could have so lovingly restored Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé's Villa Mabrouka (or 'House of Luck'), a sprawling kasbah that overlooks the Strait of Gibraltar. At this oasis-with-presence, his crisp taste informs every one of the 12 individualistic suites. The staff wear blue and white outfits, designed by Conran himself; and his elegant take on Moroccan decoration is reflected in the airy cream-coloured living rooms and echoing marble hallways. Meals are taken on the terrace, above velvety lawns sloping down towards the sea; and here, uniformed waiters arrive bearing silver trays piled with lobster and grapefruit jelly. There are twisting paths leading to a tourmaline pool, surrounded by a collection of chic green parasols, and no less divine are the massages and hammam in the spectacular spa. Growing up, Conran was fascinated by hotels – in particular by the opulence and theatrical fantasy of the grand Parisian establishments. But there is no pomp or grandeur at Villa Mabrouka. Herein is an inspiring sense of place, of the excitement of Saint Laurent's glamorous heritage, and some serious sophistication. And it's a game-changer for the city. *Doubles from £391 (villamabrouka.com).*

# Grand designs

*Forget still life, these destinations are an aesthete's dream. Meet the hotelier-maestros who paint with broad brushstrokes of flavour and flair*