



A love letter to...

Paolo Moschino and Philip Vergeylen on why the Moroccan city of Tangier has stolen their hearts

WE'VE been travelling regularly to this beguiling city for the last decade. Our first trip was to celebrate Philip's birthday at Villa Josephine in the Old Mountain district. Since then, we've come to know the area well and have started incorporating some of its traditional design elements and colours into our collections, from rattan furniture to a new fabric called Hadiqa, which means 'garden' in Arabic.

- This is a place that appeals to the senses. We love Tangier's vibrant colours, intricate patterns and rich cultural influences. It also embraces earthy tones like deep reds, oranges, yellows and blues, inspired by the desert landscape, ocean and busy marketplaces. We spend a lot of time walking around and absorbing the atmosphere.
- A must is a simple lunch on the beach. Chez Abdou looks like a scene out of an Almodóvar movie and serves excellent Moroccan food comprising a special of the day, such as grilled fish and fresh salad. If you want anything in addition, you need to bring it yourself, whether wine or salt. It's very casual. We also enjoy L'Ocean for its relaxed beachside French food. For supper, Casa d'Italia feels like a 1960s Italian restaurant, especially popular

among locals on Sunday nights. It's a place to see and be seen. You'll find a great pizzeria on the rooftop of the newly opened Riad Mokhtar hotel, too.

- Located moments from the bustle of Tangier's kasbah and medina, Villa Mabrouka (pictured, left and right) feels more like a private residence than a hotel. In the 1990s, it was the source of inspiration for designer Yves Saint Laurent. Since then, Jasper Conran has brilliantly transformed the building through a mix of 1940s modernist architecture, traditional Moroccan design elements and English country house interiors. As soon as you step through its wooden doors and into the gardens filled with birdsong, you're transported to paradise.
- There are so many special shopping experiences here. Boutique Majid offers a spectacular array of antique fabrics, old carpets, alabaster jars and terracotta pots. Las Chicas is a great concept store for fashion design, jewellery and accessories. And we love to drop in at De Velasco, our favourite tailor in Tangier. Philip has a large collection of typical Moroccan jackets as well as beautiful linen shirts; we can't resist adding to our wardrobe on every trip. 📸
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