

Amanjena

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Amanjena (meaning 'peaceful paradise') is situated just outside Morocco's UNESCO-protected city of Marrakech, set within an oasis of palm and olive trees adjacent to the lush fairways of the Amelkis Golf Course. Moorish heritage is reflected throughout the *pisé*-walled resort, including the 40 guest Pavilions and Maisons that radiate from an ancient *bassin*, echoing the style of a sultan's palace. Amanjena offers a variety of guided excursions on foot, bicycle or by private car into the Medina, the famous Djemaa el-Fna square, and the palaces, gardens and craft shops of ancient Marrakech, as well as further afield into the High Atlas Mountains.

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Amanjena (meaning 'peaceful paradise') marked Aman's debut on the African continent when it launched in 2000. Lying within an oasis of palm and olive trees close to the ancient city of Marrakech and its famous UNESCO-protected Medina, the resort lies adjacent to the 27-hole Amelkis Championship Golf Course.

Known in Arabic as *Al Medina al-Hamra*, the 'Red City', due to its rose-hued structures, Marrakech was the inspiration behind Amanjena's design. The resort's walls echo the city's old *pisé* (rammed earth) buildings as well as the Berber villages that cling to the High Atlas Mountains. Green is also a predominant colour – the colour of paradise, royalty and abundance.

Amanjena's 10 rose-toned Pavilions, 6 Pavilions Bassin, 16 Pavilions Piscine, six two-storey Maisons and the two-bedroom Maison Jardin and Al-Hamra Maison all radiate from the ancient *bassin* (pool) at the heart of the property. Set beneath stuccoed domes with arched entrances, vaulted ceilings and garden courtyards, the 40 Pavilions and Maisons are cool, elegant dwellings with Berber carpets scattered over *zellij*-tiled floors. Several offer private heated pools.

The resort's main 33-metre, heated swimming pool is overlooked by the Pool Terrace and Olive Grove, serving light lunches and wood-fired pizzas. For dinner only, The Japanese Grill, offers fine dining centred around a robata grill. The Restaurant is housed within the elegant reception pavilion and serves authentic Moroccan cuisine. Two lounges are situated on either side of the reception pavilion, one serving afternoon tea and the other postprandial cigars and shisha. Other facilities include a two-storey library, tennis courts, a boutique and a spa with separate *hammams* (Turkish baths) for men and women. Set in an olive grove, the Caidal Tent is a romantic venue for private events.

Amanjena is a 20-minute drive from the airport and offers memorable day trips to the Berber villages of the High Atlas Mountains and the seaside town of Essaouira, just over two and a half hours away by car.

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Amanjena (peaceful paradise) marked Aman's debut on the African continent when it launched in Morocco in 2000. Lying within an oasis of palm and olive trees close to the ancient city of Marrakech and its famous UNESCO-protected Medina, the walled resort is situated on the southern road to Ouarzazate, the gateway to the Sahara Desert. While the High Atlas Mountains claim the horizon, the verdant fairways of the 27-hole Amelkis Championship Golf Course lie adjacent to the resort.

Known in Arabic as *Al Medina al-Hamra*, the 'Red City', due to its rosy-hued structures, Marrakech was the inspiration behind Amanjena's design. The resort's walls echo the city's old *pisé* (rammed earth) buildings as well as the Berber villages that cling to the High Atlas Mountains. Green is also a predominant colour in the oasis of Marrakech – the colour of paradise, royalty and abundance. The colour of nature gilds Amanjena, too: its lawns and vines, its emerald-clay roofs, Moroccan marble fountains and the dazzle of hand-cut, glazed tiles known as *zellij*.

Marrakech came into being nearly 1,000 years ago through the brilliance of 11th-century Almoravid irrigation. Water is also the unifying element of Amanjena. Central to the resort is a *bassin*, inspired by the ancient irrigation pool in Marrakech's 12th-century Menara Gardens. Two long canals flow from Amanjena's central *bassin* and nurture the resort gardens, full of orange-flame bougainvillea, hibiscus and pomegranate.

Set around the *bassin* beneath stuccoed domes, Amanjena's 40 guest suites (32 Pavilions, seven Maisons and one Al-Hamra Maison) are cool, elegant dwellings featuring graceful archways, vaulted ceilings and garden courtyards – several with heated pools. Inside, Berber carpets are scattered over *zellij*-tile floors. The sound of fountains soothes, while traditional daybeds and candle lanterns add to the authentic Moroccan ambience.

The resort's main swimming pool is 33 metres long, heated and finished in glittering green *zellij* tiles. There is also a heated children's pool. Loungers and parasols line the main pool's terrace. The Pool Terrace and Olive Grove serve light lunches and fresh pizzas from a wood-fired outdoor oven. For dinner only, the Japanese Grill, offers fine dining, centred around a robata grill. The Restaurant is housed within the elegant reception pavilion and serves authentic Moroccan cuisine. Flanking the reception pavilion are two lounges, one serving afternoon tea; the other, cigars and shisha. Other facilities include a two-storey library, tennis courts, a boutique and a spa with separate *hammams* (Turkish baths) for men and women. A wander through an olive grove reveals the Caidal Tent, an authentic setting reserved for romantic private dining or special events. Here guests can enjoy Moroccan cuisine accompanied by live traditional music.

Amanjena is a 20-minute drive from the airport, past the king's palace and Agdal Gardens, a 12th-century estate of irrigated olive and orange orchards. Memorable day trips include visiting the Berber villages of the High Atlas Mountains and the seaside town of Essaouira, just over two and a half hours away by car.