

# Take five romantic escapes

## Resistance is futile

### 1. Dar Jaguar will set your heart roaring...

There are few more romantic places to celebrate Valentine's weekend than Marrakesh. There is certainly nowhere more exotic and other-worldly at less than four hours from London than this Red City...

If you are looking for somewhere exquisite to stay then look no further than **Dar Jaguar**.

Transporting her love of old-world romance, opulent style and grace that defines her exclusive couture fashion business in Notting Hill ([www.thestateofgrace.com](http://www.thestateofgrace.com)) Lucia Silver has created Dar Jaguar.

This ancient riad has been lovingly restored as a breathtakingly beautiful private guesthouse perfectly situated in the heart of the old medina neighbouring the exotic Place des Epices (spice market) and less than five minutes walk from the world-renowned Jemaa el Fna Square.

Dar Jaguar brings together an exquisite blend of traditional Moorish and Oriental architecture with an elegant European romanticism. It is built around a central courtyard in which palm trees are intertwined with bougainvillea draping onto an antique marble fountain.

Each of the five generous en-suite rooms has an individual style with furnishings and heirlooms sourced from all corners of the globe.

You will be greeted by the most discrete, warm and friendly house staff for whom nothing is too much trouble. This is exemplified by the greeting

you receive – the house is divinely fragranced with oud and frankincense and the fountain and your four poster bed scattered in velvet red rose petals. Should you wish to have a copper bath (no less) on arrival with a glass of chilled white wine, they'd be only too delighted to prepare this indulgence...

Begin your day with a delicious breakfast, freshly squeezed fruit juices and Moroccan pastries, served on the sun-blessed roof terrace with a truly magnificent view over the city. Take the edge off the heat anytime you like in the plunge pool which is set under ancient carved woodwork and a huge Syrian chandelier designed by Lucia Silver.

After a busy day negotiating the vast and colourfully frenetic souk, you may want to indulge yourselves in a massage in the privacy of Dar Jaguar. Surrounded by glowing lanterns and the fragrance emanating from the jasmine surrounding the house, savour a candlelit dinner in the courtyard which can be prepared with whatever food you desire.

*For absolute privacy, the Riad can be hired in its entirety or on a room by room basis.*

*Dar Jaguar has a full complement of staff including a very talented chef, Chauffeurs, masseurs, beauty technicians, tour guides and personal shoppers can be arranged as requested.*

For more information visit [www.darjaguar.com](http://www.darjaguar.com)



### 2. Jardins Secrets, Nimes, France.

This hotel has been described as 'so beautiful it is almost heartbreaking'. The Jardins Secrets is set in the heart of Nimes, hidden behind a walled garden. Tinkling chandeliers, curtains thick as cream and jugs in your bedroom filled with rosebuds surely qualify it as the most romantic hotel in the world. We are told that when you have a massage, everywhere is lit by candles and the jams at breakfast are made from violet and rose. Delightful.

Jardins Secrets are offering Valentine's Day packages in the spa. They are as follows:

- A candlelight couples' massage by the indoor pool for 240€.

- The "Bains des Nymphes" package which consists of a hammam, body scrub and massage for two at the same time for 500€.

These spa packages are available for the whole of February.

UK reservations: Chic Retreats  
Tel. 020 7307 2797 | [www.chicretreats.com](http://www.chicretreats.com)  
[www.jardinssecrets.net](http://www.jardinssecrets.net)

### 3. Unique Home Stays

Yet another gem in the Unique Home Stays collection is the Kingfisher folly (shown). This romantic riverside folly in Devon is the perfect haven to relax, unwind and enjoy peace and seclusion. Ensclosed in nature, antiques accessorise this romantic getaway pad that is perfect for two.

For more information contact UHS on 01637881942 or [www.uniquehomestays.com](http://www.uniquehomestays.com)

### 4. The Boat House

The Boat House was built in 1760 as a boating house in what must be one of the most secluded, private, romantic settings in south Devon. It is situated 1¼ miles from Stoke Gabriel, a charming village (just three pubs, a post office, shops, a restaurant and a medieval church) sloping to a creek off the River Dart estuary. Contact Helpful Holidays on 01647 433593 or visit [www.helpfulholidays.com](http://www.helpfulholidays.com)

### 5. Closer to home, let Altitude 360 seduce you with a personalised dinner this valentine's day

This Valentine's Day, Altitude 360 opens its doors to lovers with lofty aspirations, offering a unique and inspiring setting for a memorable February 14th.

Altitude 360, London's most exclusive venue with a view, will be inviting couples to enjoy a lavish Valentine's themed menu meal whilst towering over the Capital from the dizzy heights of Millbank Tower. Those looking to really impress their beloved this February, have the unique opportunity to assist with menu design, tailoring the meal to their Valentine's tastes, creating a truly bespoke offering.

Guests will also be treated to a pre-dinner romantic film screening of a heart-warming classic in The Millbank Cinema & Media Centre, providing plenty of opportunity to cosy up next to the one you love with popcorn in one hand and a glass of champagne in the other.

Altitude 360's panoramic views over some of London's most iconic landmarks will be sure to get your heart racing, whilst specialist hospitality team and world-renowned caterers, Salt & Pepper Private Food Design, demonstrate outstanding attention to detail leaving you to enjoy the stunning backdrop of London's sparkling skyline from this intimate and amorous setting.

For those wishing to book, contact Alex Kersjes or Jenny Murray on 0845 500 2929.



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