



# TOUR DE FORCE

What's your dream destination this year? Don't go anywhere until you read our ultimate travel guide for 2014. **Angelina Villa-Clarke** unearths the latest openings, most happening places and untapped exotic islands waiting to be discovered



## Marrakech

Luxury offerings close to Morocco's bohemian city are upping their game for 2014. Just opened at the sumptuous Selman hotel is the Espace Vitalité Chenot spa ([selman-marrakech.com](http://selman-marrakech.com)).

Adding to the palatial surrounds, all designed by Jacques Garcia, the exclusive spa offers Henri Chenot's signature biontology, which considers each client's wellness as a whole. It also boasts four hydrotherapy rooms, an oversized hammam and two pools.

Located in the greenery of the Palmeraie of Marrakech, is the new five-star Tigmiza Hotel ([tigmiza-hotels.co.uk](http://tigmiza-hotels.co.uk)). Guests can stay in a choice of Kasbah suites, hidden pavilions in the bamboo grove or gorgeous villas with their own pools and gardens in Le Village. From its vegetable garden to its terrace with views over the city, its flamboyant cinema to in-house boutique, each area has been immaculately designed to ooze character and charm.

For the ultimate party stay at Ezzahra ([ezzahra-morocco.com](http://ezzahra-morocco.com)), a private mansion for up to 16 guests. The staffed house comes complete with a chef, chauffeur and beauty therapists, meaning you can indulge in as many treatments as you'd like during your stay, while the in-house concierge has the hottest insider tips.

Lastly, 22km south west of Marrakech is the new opening from Grace Hotels, due to open in February. Grace Marrakech ([gracehotels.com](http://gracehotels.com)) is found in 15 hectares of Moroccan countryside and comes with its own farmstead with olive trees, vegetable gardens and horse stables. The ideal rural escape, it is made up of 18 suites and lofts, a traditional farm kitchen, library, outdoor heated pool and spa, all with a stylish North African design ethos.

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## Cambodia

With one of the most idyllic settings in the world, Song Saa Private Island is the ultimate castaway retreat ([songsaa.com](http://songsaa.com)). The only top-end resort in the Koh Rong islands in Cambodia, it won't be long before this largely undiscovered area is on everyone's must-see list. Found off the coast of Sihanoukville, the resort offers eco-luxe villas with outdoor showers, an Ila spa and an overwater restaurant offering experimental Khmer dishes. Owned by Brit couple, Rory and Melita Hunter, Song Saa offers a glamorous green sensibility with meticulously thought-out details. Many of the interiors have been created from local or recycled materials – from driftwood columns to fishing boats used as wall

art, in-room toiletries are by Aesop and the Champagne bar is just the spot to watch the sun go down. The resort is also being recognised as a pioneering new model for sustainability, at the luxury end, with the owners launching a separate organisation, the Song Saa Foundation, to focus on conservation and work with local communities ([songsaafoundation.org](http://songsaafoundation.org)). For a once-in-a-lifetime experience, book into one of the healing retreats based around Buddhist philosophy. Guests can experience a mix of ancient healing practices, such as chakra alignment, reiki, ayurveda, yoga, guided meditations, as well as specially prepared spa cuisine and nurturing activities. Go before everyone else does.

