


Karawan Riad hotel, Fez, Morocco: review

21 Derb Ourbia, Makhfia, Fez Medina, Morocco. [Show on map](#)

 Expert Rating

8/10



Rooms from **£134**

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Karawan’s seven suites are among the biggest and most lavish in town with lots of intriguing details.



Tara Stevens

Tara Stevens is a food and travel writer, culinary guide and cookery teacher. She splits her time between Barcelona, Spain and Fez, Morocco and tries to squeeze as much travel as possible in the gaps in between.Over the past 12 years Tara has covered innumerable destinations – usually with a food angle – for a wide variety of publications.

These palatial digs will transport you to a time of Sultans and caravanserais, albeit lavishly updated with 21st century whistles and bells. Located in a less discovered part of the medina it is a great base for exploring minus the crowds.

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Location

8/10

A lavish palace on the edge of the Andalous Quarter, a neighbourhood undergoing rapid regeneration with new plazas and a riverside walk at R'cif. It's blessedly easy for taxi access too.

Style/character

8/10

Soaring proportions combined with 21st century engineering dazzle the second you walk through the door of this former palace. A unique addition to Fez's limited five-star category, the focal point is a contemporary stone courtyard criss-crossed by tiny water channels, with tea rooms, a sunken lounge and deluxe hammam spinning off into the salons. The idea was to create a kind of modern-day caravanserai, though now instead of merchants resting during their travels, it's a hub for cultured visitors and lovers of luxury. The owners have gathered furniture and artefacts from all over the world to combine with traditional Moroccan savoir faire with dazzling results.

Service

7/10

Elegant, respectful and liveried in the true French tradition. Staff invest lots of time getting to know guests, where they're from and what they need, leaving them wanting for nothing more than the peace in which to contemplate these magnificent surrounds.

Rooms

9/10

Karawan's seven suites are among the biggest and most lavish in town with lots of intriguing details, not least in one-off pieces of furniture, antique textiles and original art works. The vast, first floor Africa Suite has a sultry mezzanine bathroom of gleaming black marble overlooking a lounge with an elegant, hanging fireplace that opens onto a private, lushly planted terrace, but for maximum privacy book the rooftop terrace room.

Food & drink

7/10

Afternoon tea is one of the highlights of staying here with sensational Moroccan patisserie made in house and Mariage Frères teas chosen to lull you off into daydreams. Sunday brunch offers a selection of dishes cooked on the spot (€25/£20), while lunch goes bistro style with grilled fish kebabs, minute steaks and salads, (two courses with a glass of wine €17.50/£14). The restaurant offers gourmet French and Fassi dishes will take centre stage (€29/£23 for two courses with class of wine, €35/£28 for three courses with glass of wine).

Value for money

7/10

Double rooms from €170 (£134) in low season; rising to €425 (£336) in high, including breakfast. Free Wi-Fi.

Access for guests with disabilities?

An eighth room can be made-up off the courtyard for anyone with severely restricted mobility and because the ground floor is so spacious you don't feel you're missing out. Otherwise, it's a minimum of 20 shallow steps to the first floor rooms.

Family-friendly?

Children over the age of 12 are welcome. Please advise ages of younger kids in advance.