



ICAA Morocco: Outstanding Private Residences & Gardens: Tangier, Taroudant and Marrakech

Sponsored by Institute of Classical Architecture & Art

Organized by Pamela Huntington Darling, Chargée de Mission & Patron Member

Friday, May 1st to Sunday, May 10th, 2015: 9 days & 9 nights (Optional Day & Night: Thursday, April 30th)

A once-in-a-lifetime experience, this year's unprecedented program opens the doors to many of Morocco's most exquisite private residences and gardens, never accessible to the public. Surpassing even the smashing success of 2014's tour, this unimaginably privileged program reveals the splendid private lives of our illustrious hosts.

For nine extraordinary days and nights, we will be welcomed into the luxurious intimate worlds of **renowned interior designers, landscape architects, European aristocrats, international private collectors and aesthetes**, including the private residences of the likes of the late Yves Saint Laurent, Pierre Bergé, Madison Cox, Roberto Peregalli, Yves Talaron, and European royalty in the exotic cities of **Tangier, Taroudant and Marrakech**. We extend our full gratitude to **Madison Cox** for his valued intervention in this exceptional discovery. *An opportunity that will not be repeated.*

Accompanied by experts, we will enjoy rare and privileged visits and lunch and dinner receptions in our prominent hosts' sumptuous private residences, including ancient *riads* (palaces) and villas celebrated for their unique and unparalleled architecture, glorious interiors, museum-quality art collections, and lush gardens with stunning views.

Few people know that the US and Morocco share a rare and longstanding bond – **The Kingdom of Morocco was the first country to recognize United States nationhood and was host to the world's first US embassy**. Gateway to Africa, Morocco's exotic melting pot of far-flung peoples and cultures, and its legendary tolerance of all religions, throughout the centuries, has culminated in a country of exceptional richness, depth and diversity.

Tour Highlights

Optional Afternoon & Evening: Thursday, April 30th –Tangier

We recommend arrival in Tangier on April 30th, a day prior to the official program.

Guests will be met at the Tangier (TNG) airport and travel by private car (*at cost: \$30*) to the historic four-star **El Minzah Hotel**, set in the legendary medina, where they will be greeted by **Pamela Huntington Darling** and our experts.

(Extra night: April 30th: hotel at cost, \$200 per room.)



One of the world's most historically rich cities, Tangier was founded by the Carthaginians in the 1st century and subsequently ruled by the Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, Portuguese and British. By the 1920s, Tangier was the **quintessential International City**, with Spanish, English, American, Italian and Arab residents representing all faiths. **Tangier has been home to many influential Americans**, including **Malcolm Forbes, Barbara Hutton, Paul Bowles, Elizabeth Taylor**, and many illustrious contemporaries.

Late afternoon welcome tea and presentation of Morocco with John Davison, Director, at the American Legation, set in a charming *riad* in the medina. What could be more fitting than to begin our discovery of Morocco by the oldest American historic site outside the USA – the first US embassy abroad?

Evening welcome, cocktails & buffet dinner with Madison Cox and award-winning director and choreographer Rob Ashford at the Villa Mabrouka, former residence of Yves Saint-Laurent, on a lush cliff-side landscape with stunning views of the Strait of Gibraltar.



Day 1: Friday, May 1st – Tangier (3 days/3 nights)

Morning visit with Michael Raymond at his enchanting cottage, a touch of old England in Tangier. In the 1960s, Micky was the eye at **Colefax & Fowler**, the esteemed English decorating firm, co-owned by Lancaster.

Pamela Huntington Darling

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Late morning visit to the late interior and fashion designer Adolfo de Velasco's lavish private palace in the Kasbah, formerly owned by his partner, the eccentric Englishman David Edge, and the one-time harem of Sultan Moulay Ismael. Today the palace is owned by the Baron and Baroness Roland Gillion-Crowet, who have graciously invited us to visit this truly theatrical private setting for the happy few.

Lunch at longtime resident Anna McKew's delightful home, among magical woodland gardens and gazebos. Tessa Codrington, author of *Spirits of Tangier*, cites this lovely home as her favorite in Tangier.

Afternoon tea with legendary British antiques dealer and collector Christopher Gibbs at his private residence set on 14 acres of lush gardens next door to the King's residence. Gibbs was an influential figure in the worlds of interior design and men's fashion in 1960s London.

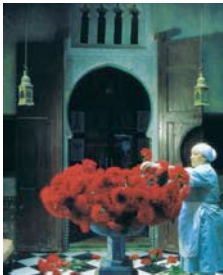
Evening cocktails with Madison Cox and Rob Ashford at Pierre Bergé's private residence Villa Léon L'Africain near the hotel El Minzah. Built in 1912 in a lovely garden restored by landscape designer Madison Cox, the Villa is recognized as the most beautiful example of French colonial style in Morocco.

Dinner: free. On this free evening we recommend **El Minzah**, the hotel's superb garden patio bar, with live piano music, or the **El Morocco Club**, one of Tangier's best restaurants, located in the old Kasbah.



Day 2: Saturday, May 2nd – Tangier

A short morning walk and private visit with Christopher Gibbs to the Church of Saint Andrew, an enchanting historic Anglican church, built in 1894, set in a lovely park given by King Hassan I. We will then visit **Abdel Majid Rais El Fenni's fabulous gallery** in the **souks** of the old medina. Majid is renowned for his exceptional antiques and Berber jewelry. One of our hosts' exclusive black-book addresses.



Late morning visit to the private residence of famed classic Italian architect and decorator Roberto Peregalli, with refreshments, the most exceptional residence in the old medina, across from Majid's gallery, cited in ICAA member Elizabeth Dowling's book *Classical Interiors* and *The Tangier Home of Architect Roberto Peregalli*, <http://trouvais.com/2009/11/18/restoration-in-tangier>

Lunch at El Minzah, offering delicious, freshly prepared fare on a spacious terrace overlooking the hotel gardens and port.

Afternoon visit to Boubker Temli's antique shop, with rare, unique pieces, and his brother's **Tindouf Bazaar**, both must-visits, absolute favorites of our hosts, located just across from the El Minzah.

Late afternoon tea at Boubker and Noor Temli's magnificent private residence and gardens, designed by the legendary American Stuart Church, described by Madison Cox as "the Bill Willis of northern Morocco...1,001 nights."



Buffet dinner with Yves Taralon, internationally renowned interior designer and Artistic Director of the luxury house Hermès, at his private residence, Casa Hafa. In this marvelous villa built into the rocks overlooking the Spanish coast and the Strait of Gibraltar, Yves mixes the marvels of Eastern tradition with contemporary Morocco, featuring a panoramic vista stretching for miles!

Day 3: Sunday, May 3rd – Tangier

Late morning visit with the internationally acclaimed Chilean artist Baron Francisco de Coruera Gandarillas at his private residence and studio in the Kasbah. His work is sought after by international public and private collections.



A convivial buffet lunch with Jonathon Dawson, an illustrious aesthete and Tangier personage, who will warmly receive us at his cottage, after **a scenic 20-minute drive** via the mountain road to view the majestic private royal summer residences, including the home of Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, and the King of Saudi Arabia, the glorious park Rmillate, and the Cap Spartel natural reserve, to arrive at **Cap Spartel**, a promontory rising 1,000 feet above sea level, with breathtaking views of the Strait of Gibraltar.

Afternoon tea at Madison Cox's enchanting private residence, the Cliff House, with stunning gardens and views.

Cocktails & buffet dinner with renowned Italian horticulturist and novelist Umberto Pasti at his stunning residence and gardens, Villa Tebarek Allah, with spectacular views of Tangier. After visiting his splendid gardens, during cocktails Umberto will discuss the history of Moroccan architecture and art.



Day 4: Monday, May 4th - Thursday, May 7th – Tangier to Taroudant (3.5 days/3 nights)

09:05 am: Depart Tangier on Royal Air Maroc flight AT471

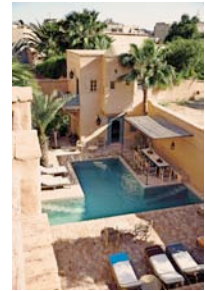
10:15 am: Arrive Casablanca: **welcome to Royal Air Maroc's VIP lounge**, where we will enjoy **a light, specially catered lunch**

12:25 pm: Depart Casablanca on Royal Air Maroc flight AT423

13:45 pm: Arrive Agadir; transfer to Taroudant by luxury coach (45 min. drive)

3:30 pm: **Warm welcome by our French hosts at their private residence, never open to the public, former residence of the Pasha of Tiout.** Their vast palace, over 40,000 square feet, houses 18 suites, 2 pools, inner gardens, rooftop terraces and an extraordinary collection of Berber and Moroccan antiques. Our hosts will warmly welcome us for refreshments, installation in our suites and relaxation. Avid collectors, they personally restore and decorate their residences and will share with us their passion for architecture and art. *Illustrated in the book in French & English: L'Art de Vivre à Taroudant*, pp. 28-45.

Evening cocktails & dinner with the esteemed Belgian interior designers Christophe Decarpentrie and Abel Naessens at two of their four admirable private residences. We will enjoy cocktails at **Le Bastion**, followed by dinner at **Le Petit Palais**. Their four residences, all outstandingly restored and splendidly decorated and landscaped, include rooftop terraces with spectacular views of the Atlas Mountains and gorgeous gardens. Devotees of the Berber culture, Christophe and Abel are heart-and-soul traditionalists and fervent admirers of Taroudant. *Illustrated in the book L'Art de Vivre à Taroudant*, pp. 64-97; 126-139.



Day 5: Tuesday, May 5th – Taroudant

Morning visit with Christophe Decarpentrie and Abel Naessens to their private residences, La Berberie and La Piscine, followed by an exceptional visit to the **private residence of a member of a Royal family in the old medina**, all superbly restored and decorated.



Lunch with Karl Morcher at his immense palace and gardens, the Tour des Falcons. After studying art in Paris, Karl has lived in Taroudant for many years. Several years ago, he built his palace in a amazing park in the countryside. An aesthete and modernist, Karl perfectly marries his taste for contemporary art with rare Berber collections and décor in rooms of Balzacien proportions—with Jean-Michel Frank furniture, Dadaist paintings, and much more. Featured in *L'Art de Vivre à Taroudant*; pp.214-235.

After a relaxing luncheon and a stroll through the remarkable gardens, we will return to the private residence of Marie and Dominique for relaxation, enjoy the gardens, a swim in the pool, or a massage.

Evening visit and drinks at the private residence of Jean Louis Germain, an artist and son of a prominent French family, who are among the largest landowners in North Africa. Our host and his family re-created in Taroudant the atmosphere of their former stately home and gardens in Algeria, respecting Moroccan architecture and décor, including magnificent *zellige*. Jean Louis works in his studio on the property and in his château in France. *See: L'Art de Vivre à Taroudant*; pp. 168-185

Dinner with our French hosts and new friends at their splendid private residence, the former palace of the Pasha of Tiout.

Day 6: Wednesday, May 6th – Taroudant

Morning visit to the residence of Abdou Kholfi, a distinguished Moroccan architect and interior designer esteemed for his knowledge of traditional Moroccan culture, as illustrated in his exquisite Taroudant residence. A passionate collector, we will view his outstanding collection of contemporary Arab and North African paintings, antique furniture and decorative arts.



Visit and Lunch at the late Chilean artist Claudio Bravo's stupendous palace and gardens with Peter Blunsch, a close friend and trustee of the forthcoming Claudio Bravo Foundation. Bravo's internationally acclaimed artwork sells for millions at international auctions. Over a ten-year period, Bravo created this stunning, sprawling property in the Taroudant countryside with fabulous views of the Atlas Mountains. The artist's private refuge and paradise, it was also the setting for his last work. With remarkable architecture and a décor that he personally designed, ancient treasures of the region, and an enchanting park, Claudio Bravo's palace exemplifies his love of Taroudant and its welcoming people.

Unprecedented afternoon visit to private historic palace Dar Baroud, accompanied by Peter Blunsch, where we will be greeted by owners **Ottman Demnati and his daughter Malika**. The former residence of the affluent **Pasha Hida Ou Miss**, the palace was purchased in 1933 by the distinguished couple Lahoussine Demnati and his wife Geneviève Barrier, a famous artist. They hosted many noble guests, including European royal families and the Moroccan elite. In 1945, the family received Sultan Sidi Mohamed ben Youssef, King of Morocco Mohammed IV.



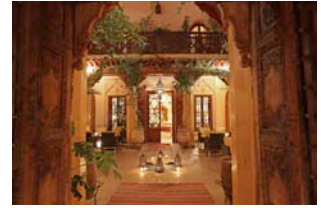
Festive evening dinner with our international host, Peter Blunsch, at his private residence, Dar al Bayda. A private Swiss investor, with residences in Paris, Venice and Switzerland, Peter discovered Taroudant by chance and, overcome by its beauty, immediately acquired a rundown Berber *riad*. An art collector with a passion for architecture and modern art, he restored this ancient building in the heart of the medina with Berber architectural elements, culminating in an elegant contemporary residence, where works of modern art harmonize in sophisticated serenity. *See L'Art de Vivre à Taroudant*; pp. 236-251.

Day 7: Thursday, May 7th – Taroudant to Marrakech: May 7th - 10th; or departure May 11th (optional night)

Morning departure, Taroudant to Marrakech by luxury coach on a new scenic highway (3.5 hrs).

Lunch at La Maison Arabe's Les Trois Saveurs and installation in our beautiful rooms at this marvelous historic hotel.

Afternoon relaxation at the hotel & spa, a gourmet cooking class at La Maison Arabe, or an expert-guided visit to the Koutoubia Mosque, a masterpiece of Moroccan architecture, and the **lavishly decorated tombs of the Saadien Dynasty** with Carrara marble and gilded plasterwork in the Chamber of the 12 Pillars—a glorious mausoleum!



Evening cocktail reception at the residence of a Belgian noble, an international aesthete and artist, with Christophe Decarpentrie. One of the stunning residences located in the famous Palmeraie of Marrakech, with a notable décor, a unique collection of Oriental art and stunning gardens.

A light dinner at La Maison Arabe, offering fresh, delectable Moroccan and international cuisine in an elegant décor.

Day 8: Friday, May 8th – Day in Marrakech, a UNESCO World Heritage Site



Morning visit to the extraordinary historic architectural sites of the Marrakech medina, including the **remarkable 14th-century Ben Youssef Madrasa**, the largest Islamic theological college in North Africa, a perfect example of Moroccan architecture and decorative arts.

Late morning visit to the private residence of a member of a Royal family, an unprecedented invitation to this magnificently restored home in the medina, former Marrakech residence of the late Chilean artist Claudio Bravo, with an outstanding collection of Syrian furniture and decorative arts.

Exclusive lunch with Madison Cox at the private residence of Pierre Bergé and the late Yves Saint Laurent, Villa Oasis. Pierre Bergé and Madison Cox, renowned landscape architect and vice-president of the Foundation Majorelle, extend **a rare invitation to this lavish private residence, never opened to the public, designed by their friend the renowned American interior designer Bill Willis.** Madison Cox and Quito Fierro, Director of Communications of the Foundation Majorelle, will warmly welcome us. **A rare invitation!**



Afternoon private visit with Madison Cox to Dar es Saada, the Majorelle Gardens and the Berber Museum. We will enjoy a privileged invitation to Dar es Saada, Yves Saint-Laurent and Pierre Bergé's private guesthouse. The former studio of artist Jacques Majorelle, it is one of **Bill Willis's signature works.** We will visit Majorelle's exquisite gardens and admire the Berber Museum's superb collection of ancient costumes and extraordinary jewelry.

Evening cocktail buffet dinner reception at the palatial residence of a noble Belgian family (date to be confirmed). Our esteemed hosts, eminent art collectors, will welcome us to their exquisite private residence in the medina—six palaces transformed by **the owner, architect Hakim Benjelloun**, and the American interior designer **Bill Willis**, into an astounding residence, the quintessence of taste in architecture, decorative arts, terraces and gardens.

Day 9: Saturday, May 9th – Day in Marrakech

A full morning visit to the best antique dealers and artisans in the souks We will spend a fascinating morning with our expert lecturers exploring Marrakech's vast and colorful **souk**, an extravagant labyrinth of open-air markets overflowing with authentic local handicrafts, spices, nuts and fruit, and visit the finest antique dealers and artisans.



Lunch at Dar Moha, former residence of the high-fashion designer Pierre Balmain, offering a delightful décor, inventive Moroccan cuisine and warm hospitality.

Afternoon visit with Madison Cox to a superb private residence and garden of his design.

Farewell dinner with the Marquis Franco and Marquise Raffaella Santasilia di Torpino, who warmly welcome us to their beautiful villa in Marrakech for a celebratory dinner prepared by the Marquis himself!

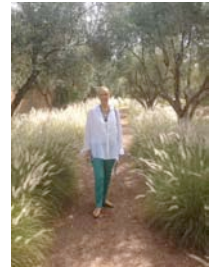
While living in California and working as a nuclear engineer (1960 to 1975), our host was a member of the **American Institute of Wine & Food** and **International Association of Culinary Professionals** and best friends with **Julia Child!** After returning to Italy to continue his brilliant career, Franco was elected a member of the **Italian Academy of Gastronomy.** He published his first cookbook, *La Cucina Napoletana Aristocratica* (1984), on the forgotten cuisine of Naples with Princess Marie-Caroline de Bourbon-Sicile, who transformed peasant cooking into a sophisticated cuisine. Franco's second book was published in 2001. **A most convivial ending to our privileged discovery of Morocco!**



Day 10: Sunday, May 10th – Departure: Flight from Marrakech to the US – Optional Day & Departure May 11th

Accommodations:

April 30 (optional early arrival), May 1 – 4: Tangier We will stay at the legendary four-star **El Minzah** hotel, set in the historic medina. Deluxe double rooms are decorated in charming Moroccan style, with furnished terraces and panoramic views of the sea and all modern amenities, including Wi-Fi and air conditioning. The hotel offers two pools, a fitness center and a full-service spa. www.leroyal.com/morocco.



May 4 – 7: Taroudant We will be guests of prominent French owners at their **private residence, not open to the public**, in the medina, a vast private palace of over 40,000 square feet and former residence of the **Pasha of Tiout**, with 18 suites, two pools, inner gardens, rooftop terraces and an outstanding collection of Berber and Moroccan antiques. All suites are elegantly appointed with individual bathrooms, Wi-Fi and air conditioning. *Illustrated in the book in French & English: “L’Art de Vivre à Taroudant”*; pp. 28-45.

May 7 – 10 or May 11 (Optional night): Marrakech We will stay at the exquisite five-star **La Maison Arabe**, optimally situated in the medina. Considered among the best small luxury hotels in Morocco, this elegant *riad* is renowned for its old-school refinement, exemplary service and internationally acclaimed restaurant. All rooms are spacious, elegantly appointed in Moroccan style and equipped with Wi-Fi and air conditioning. www.lamaisonarabe.com.

Tour Price: \$8,200 per person double occupancy; \$9,250 per person single occupancy, plus a fully tax-deductible \$500 contribution to the Institute's Annual Fund. ICAA members at the Contributor or Individual~Professional level (\$150) or higher are welcome to attend ICAA tours. The tour price is based on 18 participants, maximum 21.



Tour Price Includes: 9 days of private visits and receptions; 9 nights lodging accommodations; 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners; airfare between Tangier and Agadir (45 minutes from Taroudant); and transportation in an air-conditioned luxury coach; all private visits and receptions; and expert lecturers.

Registration: To assure availability, **please reserve by February 10th, 2015.**

To reserve: please email Pamela Huntington Darling: pdarling@exclusiveculturaltours.com or call Paris, France, Tel. +33 1 45 67 62 81. Website: www.exclusiveculturaltours.com