



The roof terrace at **Dar Attajmil**, where students of the *riad*'s half-day cooking class sample the fruits of their labor

half-day course begins with a shopping trip to buy all the supplies needed for the day's meal—often a traditional lamb tagine and the four typical side dishes (eggplant, zucchini, lentils, and peppers), although guests can weigh in on the menu options the evening before. Back at **Attajmil's kitchen**, Loubna Serhani, a university literature student, translates the cook's instructions as participants peel, core, dice, julienne, pare, and cook the ingredients. This kind of personal engagement is a key principle for Mutti. "I wanted to make a place where people can rest and recenter from a busy Western life," she says. "Entering a different, rich culture helps us look at our own—and at our own problems—from a little distance." There's no shortage of choice places onsite to unwind and reflect, like the shaded courtyard, where a tiled fountain mutes the periodic buzz of mopeds outside. Or one of the four guest rooms, all painted in warm hues, layered with textiles and

tapestries, and decorated with hammered-copper sinks and old-fashioned mosaics called *zellij*. Their ceramic tiles, hand-chiseled and painted with enamel, were assembled with as much painstaking care as everything else in **Dar Attajmil**.

How to Get There

It's a little difficult to find a flight option from your gateway city. The closest airport is Marrakech Menara, which is about 10 miles from the city center. From there, you can take a taxi or a bus to the city center. The taxi ride is about 20 minutes and costs around \$20. The bus is a bit slower but cheaper, at around \$5. If you're driving, the road from Casablanca to Marrakech is about 250 miles long and takes about 4 hours. The road is in good condition, but there are some potholes and a few accidents. It's best to drive carefully and avoid driving at night. There are also some toll roads, so be prepared to pay a few dollars. If you're taking a train, the train is a bit slower but cheaper, at around \$5. The train is a bit slower but cheaper, at around \$5. The train is a bit slower but cheaper, at around \$5.

DO IT YOURSELF

MARRAKECH

- **WHEN TO GO** Spring and fall are Marrakech's most appealing seasons, but check the timing of Ramadan, when the whole city slows down for a month.
- **GETTING THERE** Most flights to Marrakech pass through the Casablanca airport or a European hub. A recent round-trip flight from New York to Marrakech on Royal Air Maroc cost \$1,300, but you can cobble together a cheaper fare with separate flights to Europe and then on to Morocco. (Try London as well as Mediterranean cities like Barcelona.) U.S. citizens don't need a visa.
- **GETTING AROUND** If you don't read Arabic, don't rent a car. Taxis are plentiful and inexpensive, although prices rise a bit after dark. A typical ride from the airport to the medina should cost around \$20.
- **WHAT TO CONSIDER** Morocco's culture is fairly progressive, but it's wise to pack some modest clothing options: pants, long skirts, and shirts with sleeves.

