

**DAR RONDE**

Derb El Ghrissi Numéro 28,  
Ancienne Médina, Essaouira, Morocco



Guest Book

# **WELCOME TO DAR RONDÉ**

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# ABOUT THE HOUSE

Welcome to Dar Rondé, so named because it is the only rounded house in the medina. We bought the house in 2002 when it was just a ground floor with a couple of internal walls, two dark salons and a droopy pot plant in the courtyard. We were assured by our French architect, 72 year old Maria Pergay, constructor of many a palace in Saudi Arabia, that the damp, grey shell had vast but well hidden potential. "Just wait six months and this house will be un petit palais" she said. So we waited six months and another six months and one more six months and Dar Rondé took shape.

A traditional Moroccan home is called either a riad, which means a house with a garden or a dar, a house with a lightwell. Due to both the heat and Moroccans love of privacy, most traditional homes function inside out, in other words, the windows are on the inside of the house with just blank brick walls on the outside. With Dar Rondé we went for a modern take on the riad by having small windows on the outside to maximise the light and a courtyard garden in the middle of the house. We chose white walls, although many Moroccan homes are steeped in zelliges, which are intricately patterned mosaic tiles.

The front door is original Berber. It was purchased at a flea market in Marrakech during a horrendous sand storm. It was buried beneath several nondescript doors in the corner of a tiny stall. The owner was a touch disgruntled when we discovered it and tried diverting our attention to all his other goods, but we knew it was the perfect door for the house even if fitting it meant knocking down and widening the external walls of the entrance hall by half a metre on both sides.



# WHERE AND WHO?

Dar Rondé is located at 28 Derb el Ghrissi in Chabanat on the east side of the medina. The nearest bab or gate to the exterior of the walls is Bab Marrakech, which is where the cab/bus will drop you when you arrive. Chabanat is around 6 minutes from the sea and fishing port and 3 minutes from the fruit, vegetable, jewellery, spice, fish and grain souks.

## **Dar Rondé Staff**

Kamar is the manager of the house. Yusef is the house keeper/chef. Kamar has worked with us since 2002 when we bought the house and Yusef, since 2004. Kamar speaks some English, fluent French and Arabic. Yusef's English and French are limited but both he and Kamar, like many Moroccans are incredibly quick at picking up the gist of conversations. They are both very well practised in looking after our guests.

## **How Does It Work?**

Currently, the nearest airports to Essaouira are Marrakech, which is two-and-a-quarter hours away or Agadir, which is closer to three. There are two main options for travelling to Essaouira from Marrakech.:

## **Travelling By Taxi**

The taxi costs 700 dirham (around £40). The driver will meet you at the arrivals exit with a board saying Dar Rondé. There is a Bureau de Change at the airport for changing money and also a cashpoint machine. As you are approaching Essaouira, the driver will telephone Kamar and tell her that you are approaching. He will drop you at Bab Marrakech and either Kamar or Yusef will be there to meet you. Tipping the driver is only optional not necessary.

In order to book your taxi, I will need your flight details. Flight Number, Flight Arrival Time and the Airport you are flying from. Please email these to me at least 24 hours before you leave home.

## **Travelling By Bus**

The other option is the Supratour bus. This goes from the Supratour bus station four times a day and costs 65 dirham (£4) per person. To get to the Supratour bus station from the airport costs around 100 dirham (£7) and takes around 20 mins. The bus to Essaouira takes about the same length of time as the taxi, two-and-a-quarter hours, stopping briefly halfway at a cafe for refreshments.

Please let me know in advance roughly the sort of time you will be taking the bus so that I can have Kamar on standby for your arrival. When you are approaching

## **CONTACT**

If you have any questions or problems, please either call

Kamar on **0668 94 50 51**

(if you call from a mobile phone sometimes you have to dial the international code to make a local call ie 00212 68945051)



or us in London, any time of day or night on

Abby

**0044 7970 975 055**

Tim

**0044 7973 565 414**

or

**0044 208 977 1233**



Essaouira on the bus, please telephone Kamar and tell her you are near. Her telephone number is 066 89 45051. She or Yusef will be at the bus stop to meet you. Any problems getting through to her, please text/call me on +44 7970 975 055.

### **Chariot To The House.**

The bus/taxi will drop you around 5 mins walk from the house. If you have luggage, make use of the chariots for transporting your bags. When the chariot puller has dropped your bags at the house, please pay him 20 dirham (£1.70) for the service.



### **Arriving At Dar Rondé**

On the evening of your arrival (or waiting for you when you arrive if it is in the evening) will be a complimentary tagine cooked for you by Yusef, who is an excellent chef. Please let me know in advance which type you would like. There is chicken, beef, fish, vegetarian or, my favourite, kofta. (please see the Dar Rondé menu) If you arrive super late and just want to go to bed, he will either prepare a light supper for you of salad, breads etc or you are welcome to have your 'welcome' tagine the following evening. Yusef will very happily also cook meals for you on any other lunchtime/evening of your stay (again, please see Dar Rondé menu)

Yusef will come in every morning to give you breakfast, clean the house and run any errands on your request. He is generally finished in his duties by 11 am and the house is completely yours.

### **Tipping**

At the end of your stay if you found the staff to be friendly and helpful, we do recommend you tip them. An average tip would be around 100 dirham (£6) per stay.

### **Housekeeping**

Unless otherwise requested, towels are changed every four days and sheets are changed weekly. If you would like this done more often, please ask Kamar.

### **Chilly Nights**

No matter how lovely the weather during the day, evenings in Essaouira are chilly. You are advised to bring a jumper and some slippers (but leave the pipe at home). We provide bath robes. This is because the stone floors are cold on the feet especially when padding around at night or making an early morning cup of tea.



# LOCALS

## **Dress Code**

While Essaouira is a cosmopolitan town, very used to visitors, it is still a mark of respect to dress in trousers or skirts, which extend beneath the knee and T-shirts as opposed to vest tops when walking around the town. The majority of Souiri women dress in the traditional jellaba – long gowns and headscarves. On the beach, it is perfectly acceptable to wear swimming costumes and bikinis.

## **Souiri People**

The local people are incredibly laid back, foreigner-friendly and exceptional at deciphering all sorts of languages. Do not be afraid of setting free your Gallic tongue. French is everyone's second language so no one speaks it perfectly, but everyone is just happy to communicate.

## **About the Medina**

The medina is a living, working town. The fishermen and bread ovens, wake early, the shops open around 9, lots of places close during siesta time and everyone wakes in the evenings for promenading - shopping, eating and general melée. Children will play football, racket ball, cards and generally run around on the streets outside, roosters will crow, the muezzine will call to prayer (only very faintly from Dar Rondé), dogs will bark, people will sing, whistle, laugh, chat, shout. Sometimes the children will do their playing on the doorstep of Dar Rondé. They are friendly and obedient if you ask them to move and always unless it is a festival time (like Ramadan, Gnaoua music festival, Aïd etc) gone by 10pm. If it is festival time, the evenings tend to last longer and so the streets will be noisier. If this happens, there is very little we can do about it. Moroccans take their festivals very seriously and this is medina life!

Being an old town with ageing infrastructure, the medina does have its fair share of problems. Broken streetlights, uneven streets. These will all be improved with time but bear with it nothing happens particularly fast in Morocco. Despite there being a new pump to rid the town of sewage, this does not always work (!) Sometimes the drains can overflow and be a bit stinky. This is life in the medina!





# EAT IN - BREAKFAST

Breakfast is included in the price. Yusef will prepare a typical Moroccan style breakfast of freshly squeezed orange juice, coffee or tea, bread, plus everyday, two types of the following: pain au chocolat, crepes, brioche, gallettes, croissants, fruit salad, yoghurt, omelettes or cakes.

For typical authentic Moroccan breakfast, ask Yusef to bring you some bissara (kuli bissara - eat bissara), which is fava bean soup. Tear your bread up and dip it in. For the best experience, ask Yusef or Kamar to take you to the little cafe that serves bissara. It is incredibly basic but very real.

Please ask Yusef or Kamar for anything 'different' the day before, so it can be ready for you in the morning.

Yusef will only be in the house in the morning. He will prepare breakfast and then when you come down to eat, will disappear upstairs to make beds, clean the house etc. Kamar often pops in every other day just to make sure that everything is OK and that you do or do not need anything.





# EAT OUT - LUNCH

## Places to Eat

The eating scene in Essaouira has improved dramatically over the last couple of years. Some of the places we like best are:

### Laayoune

4 Bis Rue el Hajjali

Low seating, simple, reasonably priced restaurant offering a range of tagines, salads and pastas.

### Pasta Baladin

Simple, non expensive pasta dishes eaten on high, bar stool type seating. Now do take away pasta dishes!!

48 Rue Laalouj

### Chez Francoise

Small, French run cafe with banquette seating. Simple lunches of pies, salads, breads, soups and crepes.

1 Rue Houmman El Fatouaki

### Creperie Mogador

Popular, yellow interior, pine tables and a range of sweet and savoury crepes and bowls of cider.

Rue Laalouj

### Ferdaouss

First floor restaurant serving simple but delicious and completely authentic Moroccan cooking.

27 Rue Abdessalam





### Fanatic

Bistro style cafe, can get very busy at lunch, overlooking the beach.  
French/Moroccan cuisine and seafood  
Boulevard Mohammed V

### Km 8

Tasty camel on the menu here along with other delicious and simple Moroccan/French cuisine. Located 8km outside Essaouira in a small oasis.  
Rue d'Agadir, El Ghazoua

### Ocean Vagabond Beach Cafe

The food is nothing special but the setting is perfect. A km up the beach with free wifi and great outdoor, laid back setting close to camel/horse rides and the surfing school. Good just to come here and hang out for the day drinking smoothies and eating baguettes.

### Les Gargottes (Fish grills by the fishing port)

This is one of the few places in Essaouira where you are humorously harassed. As you wander around the fish cafes deciding which fish you most feel like eating, you will be hounded to eat at this stall or that. Fish's gills will be revealed to prove freshness, look for bright red, moist gills, or the odd live lobster might be thrust under your nose. Each grill has a virtually identical catch, so your decision is most likely to be based on location. The hounding stops as soon as you decide which grill you most fancy and after this, you can guarantee a really peaceful, highly enjoyable meal.

IF YOU ARE HOLIDAYING DURING RAMADAN, IT IS BEST TO AVOID THE FISH GRILLS AS BOATS DO NOT GO OUT SO OFTEN, SO FRESHNESS CAN NOT BE GUARANTEED





# EAT OUT - DINNER

## **Villa Maroc, 10 Rue Abdellah ben Yassin**

Gastronomy is taken very seriously at Villa Maroc. The food is superb, the setting lovely. This hotel is the oldest in Essaouira.

*10 Rue Abdellah Ben Yassine*



## **Le Cle de la Voute**

Lovely setting, on the pricier end of eating out but very good quality, beautifully presented French/Moroccan food.

*off Derb Laalouj*



## **Chez Sam**

Famous, quirky seafood restaurant in the fishing port. Freshest catches of the day.

*Le port d'Essaouira*



## **Les Chandeliers**

Simple food from a wide range of countries including France, Italy, Morocco with lots of seafood dishes too.

*14 Rue Laalouj*





### **Al Farachah (the Butterfly)**

Beautiful, colourful setting, French proprietor, this is “nouvelle cuisine marocaine”. Light meals also served on the upper level.

24 Rue Iraq



### **La Licorne**

Dark woods, burgundy tadelakt walls and typical Moroccan fare. Very good staff.

Friendly, laid back, Moroccan/French food.

26 Rue Skala



### **La Mama**

Italian/Moroccan family run restaurant serving Sicilian style cuisine (pizza/pasta).

Located up steps in the corner of *Place Chrib Attay*.



### **Elizir**

Higgledy-piggledy cool, this first floor restaurant serves a range of Moroccan/Italian style dishes including homemade pasta and black cuttlefish risotto. Booking advisable.

1 Rue d'Agadir



### **Le Sirocco**

French run restaurant good French/Moroccan food (great pastilas) with live music on Mons and Fris

15 Rue Ibn Rochd



# EAT IN - FOOD SHOPPING

## ***Bread (in Arabic hobbs)***

Moroccan bread is flat, round and delicious. It is fresh daily and can be found in most mini grocers. The best, local place to buy it however is on Rue Mohammed el Qorry. Here the bread is made fresh before your eyes. It costs 1.5 dirham to buy. If you fancy it, ask for honey (miel) to be drizzled inside. Sometimes they will try selling you the bread already made behind the glass cabinet. This is likely to be just made, but in order to make sure you get the hottest, say to them 'Sckorn', which means hot in Arabic.

## ***Fish***

One of the best things about staying in a self-catering house is the chance to delve into the food souks and buy the ingredients for cooking. If you buy fish in the fish souk, you can ask for it to be filleted. Do not expect it to be completely filleted, though. Usually filleted simply means removing the innards and head. You will be circled by young children trying to sell you a black plastic bag to put your purchase in. You can pay whatever you like for one. I often give around 1 dirham,

## ***Chicken and Game***

The buying of chicken and game is basic. Normally, you choose your clucking chicken/rabbit and it is slaughtered there and then. This is off putting for me and many other sensitive souls. If you feel like chicken, but don't fancy the buying process, ask Kamar to buy it for you.

## ***Supermarket***

Assawak Assalaam - Avenue Al Aqaba

The biggest supermarket in town. Soulless and generally basic but good for tinned foods, toiletries and cereals.

For the best experience, take a 2 dirham

horse and cart to get here from Bab Doukala. You have to share with others, all squeezed in and the horses are a bit whiffy but its true Morocco.





## ***Vegetables***

When buying vegetables, fruits, olives etc, choose your own. Sometimes the shopkeeper will try putting a few in to your basket for you, but if you don't like the look of these, take them out and replace them with something more appealing. Feel free to really dig around for the good stuff and, in the case of olives and nuts, sample a few first. No one will mind. The best fruit, vegetables and delicious smelling herbs can be found off the main souk street next door to the chicken market.

## ***Cheese and chocs***

If you are craving a few treats from home, there is an import shop on the main Avenue de l'Istiqlal opposite the jewellery souk. This sells things like biscuits, jams and chocolate. Check the sell by date as the dustiness of most products makes you assume they have been sitting there a while. A good shop to buy cheese is at the bottom of Avenue Allal Ben Abdullah, next door to the photo shop.



# EAT IN - HOME CHEF

**DAR RONDE**  
Derb El Ghrissi Numéro 28,  
Ancienne Medina, Essaouira, Morocco

Yusef will be more than happy to prepare meals for you. Please find below the menu. If you would like an evening meal please pick a tagine from the menu and let Kamar know at least the morning before. Please pay in advance.

150 dirhams per person for a tagine for up to 4 including bread and mineral water; 45 dirhams if you would like a bottle of President wine to accompany.

## *MENU*

### *Moroccan Salad*

Tagines to choose from

- *Chicken tagine with olives and lemon (Poulet)*
- *Fish tagine with carrots and potatoes (Poisson)*
- *Beef tagine with prunes and almonds (Viande)*
- *Kefta (lamb meatballs) tagine with eggs (Kofta)*
- *Vegetable tagine (Vegetable)*

*(Accompanying vegetables might change dependent upon the season)*

Dessert

- *Moroccan sweet cakes and mint tea*





# CAFÉ'S, BARS AND ALCOHOL

## **Café's**

Any one of the many cafes lining **Place Moulay Hassan** will serve mint tea plus if you find yourself in a shop for more than a few minutes you can expect to be offered a glass. It is very delicious but very sweet. If you like milky coffee, ask for a nos-nos, which means half milk, half coffee. Freshly squeezed orange juice is also prolific as is milky hot chocolate. All along the beach there are little cafes serving drinks. Most stop serving lunch at 3pm but drinks are available all day.

## **Bars**

**Taros**, just off Place Moulay Hassan – Taros has a great roof terrace where you get lovely views over the harbour and the medina. Drinks here are great with a wide selection. The staff speak exceptionally good English.

The **Mogador Club** at the **Sofitel** is quite a swish place to have a drink. There's piano music and comfy sofas.

The **Corner Pub** Avenue Oqba Ben Nafia Bar at the back of Le Mechouar restaurant. The music here is loud, expect MTV and disco lights

## **Alcohol**

It is possible to drink alcohol in most restaurants, but there is no shop in the medina that sells it. The nearest off license is just outside the medina through **Bab Doukala** on the high street in the **new medina**.





# THINGS TO DO



## **Shopping**

Essaouira is filled with shops selling lanterns, wicker, jewellery, mirrors, doors, polished thuya wood, iron works, art, shoes, jellabas. You can try bartering for things. The guidebooks say start by knocking down the price by 50% prepare to settle at around 25%. That said, it might just be me but I find getting the price down much harder nowadays than in the past. Perhaps I am just becoming a lightweight. The majority of little food stores sell butter, yoghurt, water (most recommended water is **Sidi Ali** or **Ciel** – 5 dirhams each), hard boiled eggs – these tend to be the ones in a plastic tray on the counter. Uncooked eggs tend to still be in the egg box, coffee, tea, crisps, tinned tuna etc.

## **Swimming**

It is possible to use the swimming pool at the Hotel Ibis (Rue Marrakech, 7 dirham cab ride) if you buy lunch. Also, at the Sofitel for 250 dirham per person (£20!!!!). While you are there you might fancy popping in to the world famous **Thalassotherapy** centre for a quick massage in algae or some such delight. Most therapies cost in the region of £30.

## **Bikes**

Bikes can be hired for around 100 dirham a day (£8) or scooters for around 250 dirham a day (£18) from the following places:

Bled a Velo for Mountainbiking trips

Tel: 0 6 61 89 79 87 (Martin Rousson) Website: [www.bledavelo.net](http://www.bledavelo.net)

Moga2Roues Bike and Scooter Hire

Jardins bin al Aswars (next to La Tête dans les Etoiles) Tel: 0 6 70 57 13 47 Email: [moga2roues@live.fr](mailto:moga2roues@live.fr)

## **Excursions**

If you have a bike, car or want to hire a taxi, suggestions for day trips include: south to Sidi Kaouki (a sleepy village, popular with surfers), North to Moulay Bouzerktoun, which is also a popular surf spot with a cliff-top restaurant, or the waterfalls at Sidi M'Barek. On Sundays (except when there is a public or religious holiday) there is a traditional market at H'raa. Organised excursions are also available (look for signs around town).



### ***Sailing trips***

This is a fantastic way of seeing Essaouira from a different angle. Drink mint tea while sailing around the Isles de Mogador, which are protected breeding sites for the endangered Eleonora's falcon. The boat is not allowed to moor on the islands but the views are great.

Essaouira Sailing Tour Port d'Essaouira Tel: 0 6 61 62 63 13

For 2 hour sailing trips around the islands, the cost is about 250 dirham per person (£18). Sunset trips (90 minutes) are about 300 dirham (£24). Sailor, Xavier, also provides group tours.



### ***Golf***

A 36-hole Gary Player-designed golf course is located at Diabet, on the Atlantic coast about four miles to the south of Essaouira medina. For reservations contact:

Golf de Mogador Green fee: about 350 dirham (£28)  
Tel: 0 5 24 47 92 30 Website: [www.golfdemogador.com](http://www.golfdemogador.com)



### ***Hammams, spas and massage***

There are plenty of hammams in the medina. Public bathing is a popular tradition and a very big part of Moroccan day to day life. The most important thing to remember in Moroccan hammams is to keep your knickers on. You will need to take some dry underwear to change into and for the more traditional ones, a towel.

#### *Hammam Pabst*

Traditional hammam made famous by Orson Welles who used it regularly between 1949 and 1952 when he was filming Othello in the town. Hammam only: 10 DH, Gommage (scrub) and massage: 100/150 DH.

Address: Rue Enasr (near Mogador Zen and Miyame Restaurant)

*Lalla Mira*

The oldest hammam in town . Women 09:30 – 19:00, Men (must pre-book) 19:00 – 22:00.

Address: 14 Rue d'Algerie (off Avenue El Qouiri) Tel: 0 5 24 47 50 46

*Hotel Atlas Essaouira & Spa*

*Luxurious hammam and spa*

offering a wide range of treatments. Sample prices:

30 minute hammam, 150 DH,

60 min massage 800 DH

Address: Boulevard Mohammed V Tel: 0 5 24 47 99

99 Website: [www.hotelsatlas.com](http://www.hotelsatlas.com)

*Les Massages Bérbères Traditional argan oil massage.*

Address: 135 Ave Mohammed El Quorry (near l'Heure Bleu Palais) Tel: 0 5 24 47 31 30 Mobile: 0 6 61 08 23 16

*Mumtaz Mahal*

A beautifully decorated hammam in a luxurious riad.

Address: 6 Youssef al Fassi (next to Après Cinq restaurant) Tel: 0 5 24 78 53 00

Website: [www.riadmumtazmahal.com](http://www.riadmumtazmahal.com)

*l'Osmose Spa at Villa de l'O Hotel*

*Luxurious hotel hammam and spa*

Address: 3 Rue Mohammed ben Messaoud Tel: 0 5 24 47 63 75

Website: [www.villadelo.com](http://www.villadelo.com)

*Villa Maroc Hammam* in Morocco's original riad hotel

Address: 10 Rue Abdellah Ben Yassin Tel: 0 5 24 47 61 47 or 0 5 24 47 61 47

Website: [www.villa-maroc.com](http://www.villa-maroc.com)





## **Quad Biking**

Quad bikes for hire near Ocean Vagabond beach café. You can also hire bikes for organised trips see:

Essa Evasion Ghazoua Tel: 0 6 18 66 13 13 / 0 6 18 13 22 78

Website: [www.essa-evasion.com](http://www.essa-evasion.com)

Explora Morocco 2 Place Chrib Attai (off Derb Laalouj) and Boulevard Mohammed V (next to Beach and Friends)

Tel: 0 6 11 47 51 88 (Morocco) / 0 (0 44) 7738 563883 (UK)

Website: [www.exploramorocco.com](http://www.exploramorocco.com)

Palma Quad 70 Boulevard Mohammed V Tel: 0 6 66 70 99 99

Website: [www.palmaquad.com](http://www.palmaquad.com)



## **Riding**

Horses, camels and their owners hang out near to the Ocean Vagabond beach café, halfway down the beach. The horses are Berber stallions in good condition and the owners will try to match you with one to suit your ability for a cost of about 150 dirham per hour. If you would prefer something more organised, longer treks, or are a beginner or nervous rider, the following are recommended:

Equi Evasion Diabat Tel: 0 6 66 78 05 61 Website: [www.equievasion.com](http://www.equievasion.com)

Explora Morocco 2 Place Chrib Attai (off Derb Laalouj) and Boulevard Mohammed V (next to Beach and Friends)

Tel: 0 6 11 47 51 88 (Morocco) / 0 (0 44) 7738 563883 (UK)

Website: [www.exploramorocco.com](http://www.exploramorocco.com)



Ranch de Diabat Diabat Tel: 0 6 62 29 72 03 / 0 6 70 57 68 41 Website: [www.ranchdediabat.com](http://www.ranchdediabat.com)

Zouina Cheval Diabat Tel: 0 0 33 682 652 742 (Sophie) Website: [www.zouina-cheval.com](http://www.zouina-cheval.com)



## **Wind and watersports**

Essaouira is famous for its world class wind and water sports including surfing, kitesurfing and windsurfing. A number of places along the beach offer lessons and equipment hire, including:

Club Mistral Base Nautique Boulevard Mohammed V (next to Ocean Vagabond Beach cafe)  
Tel: 0 5 24 78 39 34 Website: [www.club-mistral.com](http://www.club-mistral.com)

Essaouira KiteSurf Rue Amira Lalla Amina (opposite the beachside basketball court)  
Tel: 0 6 72 06 37 25 / 0 6 11 41 29 48  
Website: [www.essaouirakitesurf.com](http://www.essaouirakitesurf.com)

Kiteadventures Website: [www.kiteadventuressaouira.com](http://www.kiteadventuressaouira.com)

Tripkite Tel: 0 (0 212) 6 64 80 26 44 Website: [www.tripkite.com](http://www.tripkite.com)

## **Wine tasting**

The Val D'Argan winery at Ounagha (about 35 km from Essaouira) produces some of the best wines in Morocco. It offers tastings of wine, olive oil and argan oil, accompanied by a Moroccan lunch. Open 10:00 to 18:00. Be aware, the guides DO NOT speak English. Wine tasting and lunch about 200 dirham (£17)

Val d'Argan Tel: 0 5 24 78 34 67 / 0 6 27 90 24 (Halima Eddibi) / 0 6 60 73 88 86  
Email: [d.valdargan@menara.ma](mailto:d.valdargan@menara.ma)

Website: <http://www.ras.ma/transitions/winery/index.html>









# WORKING THE COOKER

The cooker is very easy to work. Turn on the required burner and press to ignite.

The oven is an oven and grill. It uses internationally recognised symbols for the various settings. If you are not certain as to any of the operations please ask Kamar. Please note you need to leave the door open when grilling.

The oven is electric and the hob is gas. The hob is fed from a gas bottle. If this starts to run low please ask for a new one.



Fan oven



Fan with grill



Grill



# THE FRONT DOOR

The front door is a very ancient Berber door and can be a little heavy. Please pull it towards you if you are finding it hard to unlock. If you deadlock it at night please un-deadlock it in the morning so that the staff can get in to prepare breakfast.



# THE TERRACE

The cushions are “damp proof” but to avoid them getting covered in seagull poo, we ask you to bring them in overnight and leave them at the top of the stairs.





# WORKING THE SAUNA

The sauna is based on the **Helo 'Soft Hot'** technology. This makes it more of a cross between a steam room and a sauna and you will notice the room is made up of less wood than a normal sauna. The main difference is that the heater unit has more rocks than a conventional sauna. This means more humidity and less heat to make it more comfortable.

## WARNINGS:

- The floor is slippery when wet.
- Watch out for the low stair ceiling when exiting to the master bedroom.
- Use with caution if you have any health concerns that might be exacerbated by the heat.
- The tap handle may become hot. Use a towel as required
- The door handle to the master bedroom may become hot. Use a towel if required.
- Please do not let children play in the sauna
- The steps to the master bedroom can be very slippery. Please take care. Especially as it is quite low at one point

We take the safety of the sauna seriously and so sometimes it is not available whilst it is being serviced.

## NORMAL OPERATION

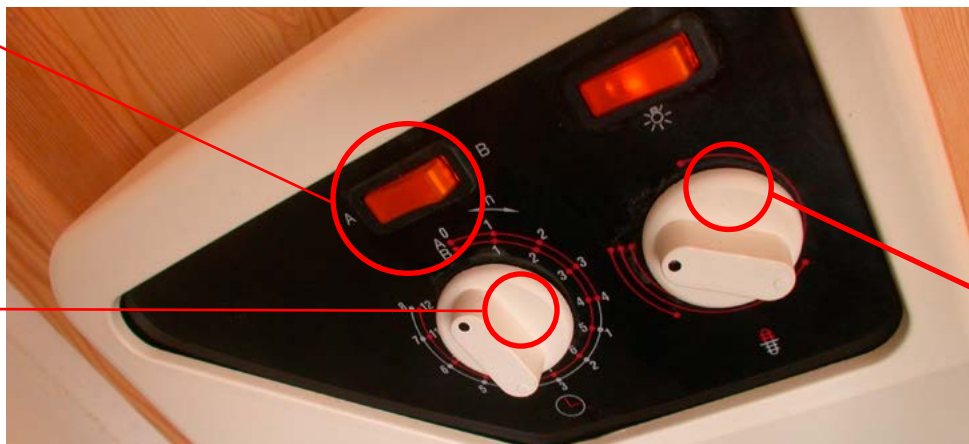
Make sure the selection switch is positioned on B. Turn timing switch to 3hrs before you wish to use the sauna. You should hear a click and a hum and the unit should start to heat up. Every half an hour or so before you get in, put about 8 ladles of water over the rocks

When you are ready to begin your sauna, add water little by little until desired temperature is reached. Do not add too much water (this shows by it dripping out of the bottom of the unit) as it will cool the unit too fast. If the water remains on the rocks then it is not hot enough and you need to wait.

After your sauna, please leave the sauna running for a short time on the timer in order to dry it out.

**Programme switch**  
For normal use this is set to B

**Timer switch. B**  
3 hour setting is normal



**Temperature switch**  
LEAVE IN THIS POSITION

# THE INTERNET

There is WIFI located on the ground floor. The strongest signal is in the little salon with the television. It is a 4MB speed however it seems to get affected by time of day, rain, sun, chickens...!

The network is called: **Dar Ronde**

The password is: **roundhouse**

# FIREPLACE

The main salon's fireplace can be lit. If you would like a fire, please let Yusef or Kamar know what time you would like it lit and they will set it up and light for you. There is additional firewood under the stairs by the front door. Due to the design the grate needs to be kept further back than you might expect, which prevents smoke coming into the room and is safer for falling logs.



# MUSIC SYSTEM

There is a Philips ipod dock in the main salon. Just drop your ipod / iphone (4S or below) onto the dock and switch it on!

# TELEVISION AND DVDS

There is a television with a DVD player. There are a selection of about 30 DVDs for all ages and eras. The television will change to the correct channel when you put a DVD in. There are no local channels.







# USEFUL INFORMATION

## **Electricity**

Sockets are European style - 250/240v twin, round pin. Please bring adaptors with you if you require them. NB. Sometimes for no reason whatsoever, the electricity goes off in Essaouira or the house. Please call Kamar. If it is in the house, she will come and flick a switch. There is a torch on top of fireplace in the salon. If it is in the town, hang in there!

## **Pharmacies**

There are loads of pharmacies everywhere (Moroccans take their medicines very seriously). Just look for the green cross.

## **Hospitals**

There is a very local hospital on the opposite side of Bab Marrakech, Avenue de Fes, outside the medina. This has an emergency wing but will not accept tourists without proof of travel insurance or payment in advance.

## **Changing Money**

You can get cash with debit/credit cards, but you need to know your pin number. There are several (around 6) cashpoint machines in the medina. It is not possible anymore to enter a bank in Essaouira, with a credit card and passport and request money, so you are advised to have 2 cards with you at all times for cashpoint machines.

## **Misc**

There is a hairdryer at the house and a travel cot. There are no stairgates or high chairs.

