

Hideaway Report[®]

JANUARY 2019

SINCE 1979

Traveling the world in search of truly enchanting places

View from our plunge pool at
Nihl Sumba, Sumba Island, Indonesia,
our 2019 Hideaway of the Year

EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS 2019

In 2018, Hideaway Report editors flew more than 190,000 miles, visited 27 countries and stayed in 112 hotels, of which 58 were recommended. The highlights of the year are reflected in this special Editors' Choice issue.

Each January, we have the pleasure of recalling our travel experiences over the previous 12 months and drawing attention to a number of particularly memorable hotels and resorts. To be considered for our annual Editors' Choice Awards, properties

must be relatively small in size, possess strong personalities and demonstrate a consistent devotion to personal service. Once, sophisticated hideaways existed chiefly in North America and Western Europe. But today superior levels of comfort, stylish design, polished service and refined cuisine can be found on every continent. In 2019, we will continue our enviable task of circling the globe in order to seek out the very best that the world of travel has to offer.

Hideaway Report editors travel anonymously and pay full rate for all lodging, meals and related expenses.

Since the launch of the Hideaway Report in 1979, featured hotels and restaurants have been selected on a completely independent basis.

For comments and inquiries, please email membersuccess@hideawayreport.com.



ROYAL MANSOUR

Marrakech, Morocco

THE KING OF MOROCCO used an almost unlimited budget to create Royal Mansour, taking full advantage of the country's rich tradition of craftsmanship. Reception was a room of semi-precious stone tile, carved plaster, intricately wrought screens and Murano-style glass, capped by a cupola. Before taking us to our *riad* — one of 53 — a staff member gave us a tour of the grounds, which are laced with little canals. The living room of our Premier Riad had a woodburning fireplace and walls covered

with hand-painted wainscoting and embroidered silk. Upstairs, a wall of carved plaster backed the king-size bed. Up one more flight of stairs we found the roof terrace with a plunge pool, where we had mint tea while reclining on a shaded daybed. At dinner in the lavish Moroccan restaurant La Grande Table Marocaine (overseen by three-star chef Yannick Alléno), we relished every gorgeously presented dish of the eight-course tasting menu. After breakfast, the dismal reality of checkout was upon us.



THE SERRAS

Barcelona, Spain

IN THE PAST, many of Barcelona's best hotels were found along La Rambla and the Passeig de Gràcias. Now there are distinctive small properties scattered across the city. These include the 28-room The Serras, which occupies a renovated stone building on a street overlooking Port Vell (Old Harbor). Our Junior Suite came with a pleasingly subdued décor and featured an oversize headboard covered by fabric inspired by the city's Modernisme-style tile work, a blond parquet floor and a well-lit limestone-

lined bath. That night, we dined at Informal, the house restaurant, where chef Marc Gascons serves mostly modern Catalan cuisine. We tried a carpaccio of scallops with tomato, avocado and seaweed, followed by grilled shrimp from Palamós (a port northeast of Barcelona), which are a prized local delicacy. The wine list was excellent, with three white Priorats from different local producers. And after dinner, we enjoyed a brandy in Le Nine, which is open 24 hours a day and draws a colorful crowd.