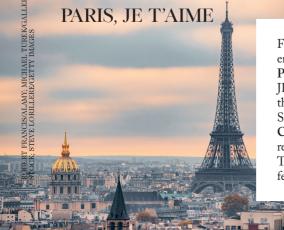


A sweeping coastline has long been Morocco's best-kept secret, but that could be about to change. While clustered cityscapes and vibrant souks continue to draw travellers to Marrakesh, a wave of luxury hotels will be making a splash on its shores. The Ritz-Carlton in Rabat will pair beach break with forest expedition, set as it is in 440 acres of woodland a short distance from the sea. A second Ritz-Carlton opens on the sands of Tamuda Bay, in the north-east, and in the same resort, a St Regis hotel promises clear ocean panoramas. South-west, the Fairmont Taghazout Bay will debut dozens of the country's first luxury waterfront villas, constructed in contemporary rustic design.



Forget food and art: a glut of new luxury hotels is reason enough to visit Paris this year. Take the newly opened JK Place Paris – the first hotel outside Italy from the impossibly stylish JK group – in the former European Consulate, overlooking the Seine and boasting a subterranean pool, as well as the only Sisley spa in the city. Across the river in the Marais is the Cour des Vosges, a 17th-century mansion with 12 suites, restaurant, tea room and Roman bath. The pièce de résistance? The upcoming Bulgari hotel, the first in France, which will feature 76 rooms, a 25m pool and a beautiful courtyard.

