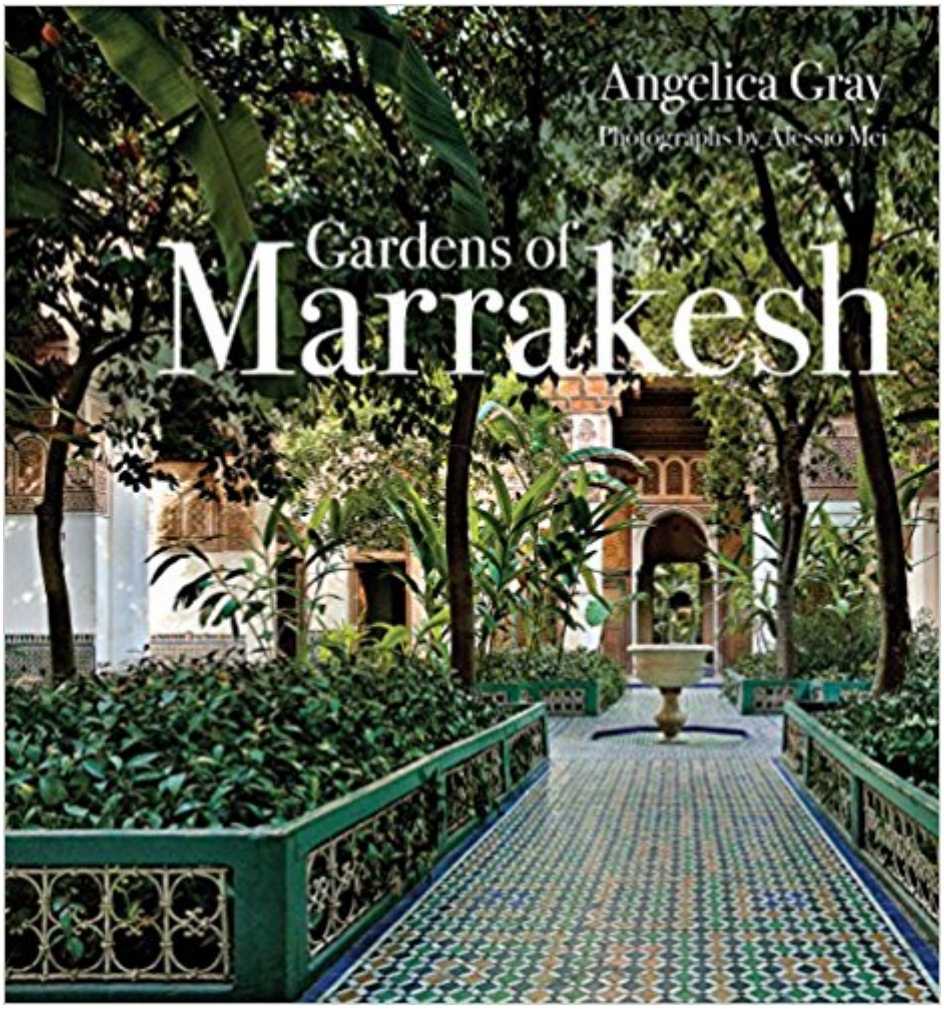
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Gardens Of Marrakesh



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Synopsis

Nicknamed Ã¢â ¬Ëœthe rose among the palmsÃ¢â ¬â„¢, the thousand-year-old city of Marrakesh is characterised by its pink-colored pisÃƒÂ© architecture and its deeply rooted tradition for gardens and green spaces. The majority of historic sites are inextricable from their gardens Ã¢â ¬â œ or indeed are historic green spaces: the huge royal orchard pleasure-gardens of the Agdal were described by Monty Don as Ã¢â ¬Ëœof international cultural importance on a par with Versailles or Villa dÃ¢â ¬â„¢EsteÃ¢â ¬â„¢. Scores of traditional riads and hotels like the Mamounia, created by the French in 1923 on the site of an eighteenth-century royal residence, offer splendid gardens to the visitor. Yves Saint LaurentÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Majorelle garden is an icon of modern garden design. The first book to be published on this fascinating subject, Gardens of Marrakesh champions the cityÃ¢â ¬â„¢s relevance today in a world of water scarcity and urban development and explores its green heritage, considering some twenty gardens both from an historic and cultural perspective.

Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Frances Lincoln; Reprint edition (February 2, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0711238901

ISBN-13: 978-0711238909

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.5 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #672,264 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Africa > Morocco #409 inÃ Â Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Region #515 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Africa > General

Customer Reviews

"Why has no-one devoted a book to this wonderful subject before? Ã¢â ¬Â¦ We are lucky to have Angelica Gray to introduce us to her selection of 20 extraordinary gardens in Marrakesh, because she writes with the authority of a local, sets the gardens in their cultural context and invites us to engage with the issues threatening their survival Ã¢â ¬Â¦ her description Ã¢â ¬Â¦ makes you long to jump on a plane to Marrakesh. Ã Â If you do her book couldn’t be bettered as a companion." - The World of Interiors"With stylish photographs by Alessio Mei ... an invaluable guide to the green spaces in this oasis city ... perfect escapism from our grey wintry skies.' - The Sunday

Times"The measure of a good book on gardens is that as you read you are consumed by a desire to drop everything and go and visit them all. This is the case with Angelica Gray’s handsome and absorbing book Gardens of Marrakesh." - The Lady"Open this volume of rich, exotic photographs of beautifully tender gardens ... and you can almost taste the mint tea" - Daily Mail"The first book of any real size to unveil the secrets of the cultural landmarks of Marrakesh by way of the city's gardens." - Stiletto magazine’Every page pulses with information, analysis, context and poetry as Gray explores the interaction of avant-garde ideas and ancient horticultural traditions - an invaluable guide for the prospective visitor, armchair traveller, general garden lover or anyone interested in the desert kingdomÃ¢â ¬â„¢s horticulture’’the first book of any real size to unveil the secrets of the cultural landmarks of Marrakesh by way of the city’s gardens.’ ’Open this volume of rich, exotic photographs of beautifully tender gardens ... and you can almost taste the mint tea’ ’The measure of a good book on gardens is that as you read you are consumed by a desire to drop everything and go and visit them all. Ã Â This is the case with Angelica Gray’s handsome and absorbing book Gardens of Marrakesh.’ ’Every page pulses with information, analysis, context and poetry as Gray explores the interaction of avant-garde ideas and ancient horticultural traditions - an invaluable guide for the prospective visitor, armchair traveller, general garden lover or anyone interested in the desert kingdom’s horticulture’ ’with stylish photographs by Alessio Mei ... an invaluable guide to the green spaces in this oasis city ... perfect escapism from our grey wintry skies.’’with stylish photographs by Alessio Mei ... an invaluable guide to the green spaces in this oasis city ... perfect escapism from our grey wintry skies.’’the first book of any real size to unveil the secrets of the cultural landmarks of Marrakesh by way of the city’s gardens.’’Why has no-one devoted a book to this wonderful subject before? . We are lucky to have Angelica Gray to introduce us to her selection of 20 extraordinary gardens in Marrakesh, because she writes with the authority of a local, sets the gardens in their cultural context and invites us to engage with the issues threatening their survival . her description . makes you long to jump on a plane to Marrakesh. Ã Â If you do her book couldn’t be bettered as a companion."

Angelica Gray is a writer and garden designer with clients in France and London. In 2007 her parents moved to a house in the Medina in Marrakesh where she first came into contact with the gardens of the city. Through her father, the portrait painter Norman Douglas Hutchinson, whose portraits of the British Royal family gained him a certain reputation, she has been able to access important contacts in the city, including Abderrazak Benchabaane, who restored the Majorelle Gardens for Yves St. Laurent, and many private garden owners.ALESSIO MEI is an Italian

photographer specialising in architecture, gardens and interiors. Fascinated by landscape and nature, he has travelled widely beyond his native Tuscany and has recently moved to Marrakesh.

This is a beautiful book and exactly what I was looking for. Gardens worthy of several looks and exploration. The photographs are stunning and the text is very descriptive. The only thing I am always left wishing for is a layout plan and how it all fits together.

Gardens of Marrakesh is a must have for anyone who likes Morocco and gardens. Great photographs and really comprehensive material.

Where do gardens come from? Every garden has many design sources, traditions and influences, and most have had many gardeners as well. But unless a garden is just a chaotic mish-mash of plants ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ and few are ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ it has a design and that design (or combination of designs) has a provenance. The design DNA that is coded into what we think of as Euro-American gardens has many points of origin, but probably none is more important than the inheritance received from Persian and later Islamic garden traditions. In the same way that the intellectual patrimony of the Hellenic and Roman cultures was saved and curated by the great libraries of Islam, the horticultural patrimony of the West was passed on to us from the great garden traditions of the Persian and Islamic cultures too. In both cases, the inheritance was received by the Roman Catholic Church as really the only cultural custodian of the West, and it proliferated outward from there as first the Renaissance and later the Enlightenment washed over an awakening Europe.Today, it is hard to think of a place where the gorgeous design influence of the Islamic garden can be better seen than in Marrakesh. And now comes this lively and beautiful book by Angelica Gray (with lovely photography by the Italian photographer Alessio Mei) to open to us mere mortals the gates of twenty fantastic Marrakesh gardens. Why is Marrakesh one of the worldÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s great garden cities? Well, you can start with nearly a millennium of intense and devoted gardening, a culture that reveres and delights in the garden, and a felicitous combination of topography, elevation, sunlight and water from the nearby Atlas Mountains that tower over Marrakesh in their brilliant red majesty. The red mountains, the red earth, the brilliant greens and the wild colors of Marrakesh all combine to overwhelm the senses. I love this city ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ it reminds me strongly of the redrock country I was raised in at the western foot of the Rocky Mountains and for me it always feels intensely foreign and very familiar at the same time. The mountains and the red earth are familiar, and so are the orchards and the irrigation, but

the palm trees and olive groves and much else besides are very unfamiliar.The gardens are presented in three groups: the Medina, the historic city center; the New Town radiating out from the Medina; and the Palmery, the great green crescent of palm trees and gardens in the northeast part of the city. The garden tour begins with a garden nearly 900 years old, the so-called ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Islamic VersaillesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and ends with a lovely new garden made for a country home-style hotel. In between are many others, including the fantastic Mamounia Hotel and of course the famous Yves St. Laurent garden of La Majorelle. You can readily perceive the influence of this garden tradition on first Moorish Spain and then later the Italian Renaissance, and then later still the French Renaissance, finally England and the rest of Europe. If you want to see where your garden came from, go to Marrakesh. Failing that, read this wonderful book and you will know.

Fabulous

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