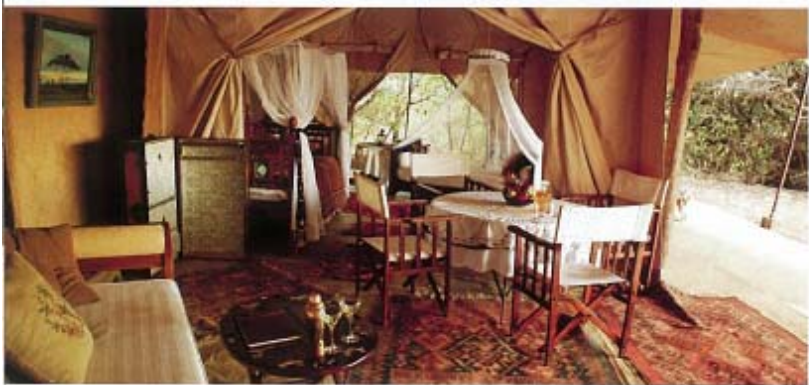


Finders keepers

The genuine article – unique, c'est chic



Cottars 1920s Safari Camp

Maasai Mara, Kenya

The perfect place to combine the wild life and the high life. This is Africa, the *Debrett's* version. Calvin Cottar will admit that he would still rather be hunting, but as a guide he is magic: handsome, charming and more than a little bit Crocodile Dundee. The camp has been in his family since the Twenties and it's where you come if you want your safari souped-up with a vintage twist. The waiters' crimson fezes, the crackling gramophones and the Louis Vuitton trunks may sound a little cheesy, but somehow they're not. After all, those vintage cars and that hat over there did belong to his legendary white-hunter grandfather. If this small, tented camp was just about theatrics, then perhaps it would seem silly, but there is absolutely nothing the man doesn't know about the local wildlife. Cottars is a very intimate, very invigorating way of seeing Africa. Come with your own group and get under the skin of the place. **Website** cottars.com. **UK reservations** Africa Travel Centre (tel: 0845 450 1533). **Rates** Double, from £500, full board, including game activities.



Ryad Dyor

Marrakesh, Morocco

This city churns out more stylish beds than you can shake a stick at. One of the year's loveliest openings was the new Ryad Dyor, right in the medina. An Amsterdam-based interiors/fashion duo honed their skills converting eight glorious villas in Ibiza before two crumbling townhouses in Marrakesh caught their eye. The townhouses now comprise five suites and two double rooms, centred on a zellij-tiled courtyard and gaspingly cold plunge-pool, topped by a heartbreakingly beautiful roof terrace with views overlooking the Koutoubia mosque and the Atlas Mountains. The decor is a quite brilliant mishmash of ceramics from Bali, fabrics from Italy and ornaments from across north Africa. Bathrooms are finished in tadelakt – that very enticing, sleek polished plaster – and stocked with blanket-sized towels. The effect is funky, with a nod to the exotic and just a pinch of kitsch. Unsurprisingly, it beckons a genuinely cool crowd. **Tel** 00 212 24 37 59 80. **Website** ryaddyor.com. **Rates** Double, from £86.



Mollies

Auckland, New Zealand

About 97 per cent of Auckland is as bland as a Tesco iced bun. Mollies, by contrast, is one of the most delicious hotels in the southern hemisphere, and the only place you should stay as you pass through the city on your way to more exciting climes. Owned by a junior professor at the Royal Academy of Music who has returned to her native New Zealand, this is a bright, 12-suite former motel stuffed with antiques, cool Sixties furniture and opera singers. Many of the staff sing, and there's a nightly concert before dinner. Don't freak out: viewed from an 18th-century gossiping chair, it's unique. The decor (the owner is also a former antiques dealer) is, as they say on Park Avenue, *beyond*. Perfect for a sexy assignation. Don't even think of going out. **Website** mollies.co.nz. **UK reservations** Bridge & Wickers (tel: 020 7483 6555). **Rates** Double, from £214.