

El Racó d'Artá

With the first breath the fresh air is inhaled - along with the fragrance of pine trees and olive groves. With the second breath you inhale the peace and tranquility. Only accompanied by the breeze and the songs of birds. And with the third breath; a pinch of incredulity, of finding such a peaceful paradise on the busiest island of the Mediterranean.

When arriving at the “El Racó d'Artá”, there is no distraction. No house to be seen, no car to be heard, no signs pointing in any directions. Not even the nearby picturesque town of Artá is visible – the surroundings consist only of rolling hills covered in forests, and a peaceful sensation of having arrived back in nature. Hidden away on the northern peninsula of Mallorca, in the Natural Park de Llevant, this luxury-wellness hotel has been rooted firmly into the Mallorquin landscape.

This is exactly what contractor Jaume Danus and the architect and designer Antoni Esteva had in mind when they created the “Es Racó d'Artá”. An immersion between the postcard landscape of the Mediterranean island and a five-star wellness hotel. As if camouflaged, the hotel reflects its surrounding color palette in every niche, encompassed by pines, cypresses and olive-trees.

As an elegantly refurbished farmhouse, along with a few surrounding casitas, the entire compound is integrated into the landscape, which is particularly felt when sitting by the large, salt-water infinity pool, which appears to seamlessly float into the adjacent hills.

Both Jaume Danus and Antoni Esteva have extensive experience in refurbishing Mallorquin luxury-fincas-hotels. But when the two friends gazed upon the 13th century farmhouse and its 200 hectares of pristine nature, they managed to redefine the concept of wellness hotel. With a desire to incorporate sustainability, environmental awareness and the essence of the island, they embarked on a mission to create a new concept of luxury resort.



Their love and respect for nature can be felt throughout the entire property. Not a single tree was felled for construction, all of the materials used are natural and endemic to the island; stones, reeds, wood and the typical Mallorquin lime stone. Geothermic- and solar-energy heat the buildings, and the used water is recycled in a reed bed treatment facility; to be returned to the island. Not even housekeeping or the pools use bleach or pungent detergents, exemplifying the high standards and the creator's dedication to authenticity and awareness.

It almost feels as if the hotel had sprung out of the ground itself, as part of the natural park, living and breathing with its surrounding and its guests.



This unique blend of luxury and nature can be felt in every part of the hotel. It radiates a peacefulness that is almost meditative. Upon arrival, this calm sets in immediately, allowing guests to instantly disconnect from the everyday, and igniting a creative desire that can only be found with a relaxed state of mind.

YOGA, MEDITATION, STARGAZING

While the mind and soul are relaxed with those first breaths, the “Es Racó d’Artá” offers a wide range of activities to relax the body as well. The spa is located in a separate building, flooded with natural light and mesmerizing views of the park. Next to the indoor pool, there are several rooms to simply sit and gaze out into nature. To enjoy “es racó” as they say – “the freedom to enjoy, to forget about time, to dream, to do nothing but to feel everything – and to find yourself.”

Naturally, the products used for the spa treatments are organic, and mostly collected from the hotels own herb- and vegetable garden. Among the activities like yoga, meditation and sunset hikes, some of the offers are truly unique; there’s the underwater “Watsu” massage – a term combining the words Shiatsu and Water. There’s wickerwork-, painting- and pottery- workshops instructed by local artisans, and thanks to its secluded location, the stargazing experience is one of its kind. All of these activities inspire a unique feeling of peaceful inspiration.

The 34 rooms of the hotel – eight of which are in the farmhouse, while the others are spread around the adjacent buildings – highlight their natural surroundings with their minimalistic chic and their earthen color palette; using white and warm, soothing hues of beiges and browns. The natural stone floors, the wooden beams and whitewashed walls reflect the traditional Mallorquin style. The elegant and sleek furniture – Lamps made out of wood, ceramics and metal, traditionally woven carpets – and even the freestanding bathtubs demonstrate that minimalist aesthetics and spacious comfort don’t exclude one another. This conceptual approach is even mirrored in the staffs outfits; which are also kept in natural, earthen tones.

ORGANIC DELIGHTS

To emphasize the traditional farmhouse character, the hotels own herb- and vegetable-garden delivers sustainable and organic produce for its restaurant “Beni Axir” – named after a medieval Berber settlement in the area. Homegrown fruit, vegetables, herbs, olive oil and wine are paired with organic produce from the local community. Fresh fish and seafood are provided by a traditional fisherman’s family from the nearby town of Cala Ratjada, while the free range Porc Negre is delivered by a friendly neighbor.

Since relaxation pairs itself perfectly with gastronomic delights, the guests are invited to indulge in the exquisite Mediterranean cuisine. Whether sitting at an inside table next to the open kitchen,

or on the beautiful outdoor terrace with seemingly endless views, “el raco” can be experienced either way.

We all have that perfect picture of a perfect Mediterranean holiday – that sunset under the olive tree, the sounds of nature, the fragrant breeze, and the taste of olives and wine. Where you close your eyes, feel the rays of the setting sun, breathe in deeply - and inhale that moment. The “Es Racó d’Artá” is definitely the place to experience that perfect picture.