

# ELLE

ARAB  
WORLD

June 79 - June 2017

Rock'n'doll  
EDGY  
MAKE-UP  
AND HAIR  
LOOKS

Fashion  
THE ULTIMATE  
FEMININE  
SILHOUETTE

SOCIAL  
FACT  
60'S ARE  
THE NEW 40'S...  
THE ONLY  
DIFFERENCE  
IS THE LEVEL  
OF EXPERIENCE

## the road to STYLE

TRENDY ABAYAS AND CHIC  
ACCESSORIES FOR THE SEASON

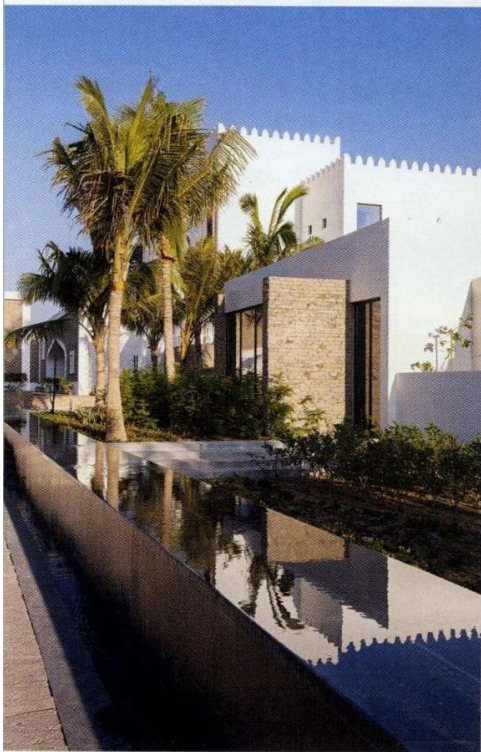
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Oman

# AL BALEED SALAHLA

Between sea and lagoon, a resort in a style similar to the traditional white village of Dhofar tells the enchanting nights of an authentic Arabia in an unknown Oman. Welcome to Al Baleed Salalah, signed by Anantara.



In the south of the incense country, Salalah is a port city on the Arabian Sea, at the foot of the Jebel al Qara and capital of the Dhofar region. A region that opens up to tourism with a brand new airport, all gleaming and miles of highways without any advertising panels, never seen before, relaxing both



eyes and spirit. We are elsewhere, in a region where time is taking a break to offer a clean country without visual pollution. Nothing but nature, then, all of a sudden, dates and banana merchants present their fruits on the banks of palm groves.

### ORIENTAL INSPIRATION

Night arrival at the Al Baleed Resort is magical. Silence, stars and great luxury. Nothing ostentatious, white buildings that border the sea, so immense! At the entrance of the place, arcades perfectly fit the landscape, imitating the curve of the palm branches. Present throughout the resort, from the lobby to the spa, they are the signature of Arab architecture giving the place an authentic atmosphere. Inspired by the traditional villages of Dhofar, Al Baleed Resort Salalah reflects traditional Omani design while

integrating modern and contemporary elements. Formerly, the villages around Salalah had a majestic main building that housed the Sheikh of the local community, built on a higher ground to govern its municipality from above. The main house served as a place of education and social interaction, invited different tribes to share stories





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and exchange the latest news. The houses of the village, smaller than the main house and built below, were scattered in the palm grove.

The façades of their mud brick walls also formed the boundary of the village, punctuated by an imposing wooden entrance door.

This concept was taken over in Al Baleed where the main building includes reception, lobby, Sakalan restaurant and 30 rooms with a sublime view of the sea. On a lower level, scattered among 750 coconut palms, 88 villas with a swimming pool, two bedrooms, a private entrance and a private courtyard. Inside, walls embedded in the style of those who used to store supplies and are decorated with local antiques and artworks. The lagoon side villas offer a most romantic view: a few palm trees, desert and little lights in the distance.

**VILLAS WITH A VIEW**

There's symmetry, throughout the resort, where alleys square the site and lead to the focal points of the ocean to the lagoon. Surrounded by palm trees, gardens and canals of black stone, they mimic the ancient

falaj irrigation system and give the whole sweetness and serenity. Infinity pool or private beach, both at once! We have lunch and dinner with a view of the sea. Lebanese specialties and Asian flavors. In the restaurant Sakalan, a breakfast buffet where nothing is forgotten. Around the pool, Al Mina for quick meals and in the evening, discover Mekong specialties, or better, order a private dinner a few steps from the waves, romantic chic picnic, lit by torches and sonorized by the waves.

*Désirée Sadek*

