



The vast dining-table, fit for 20 guests and cut from a single mahogany-tree from the rainforests of Malaysia, has no doubt seen a lot of barefoot dancing on full-moon-party nights. Jiva Puri is unique: a villa with all the privacy, intimacy and character of a home, but the amenities and services of a luxury hotel. With five lovely suites and lawns looking out to a temple and wild surf, there is all the space you need to throw a lavish birthday. Staff go out of their way to satisfy your most frivolous whims, from kites for the children to

> cycle rides around the surrounding patchwork of canals and paddy fields, and organising music and fireworks. Five nights at Jiva Puri (sleeps 10) costs from £2,560 a person B&B, including Cathay Pacific flights and transfers, with Ampersand Travel (020) 7819 9770).

The best for...

INDIA FRANGIPANI

Not far from the Chapora River is a new villa that is a world away from the mayhem of Goa's beach culture. The traditional oystershell-slatted windows of the colonnaded terrace filter out the sun and let the breezes in. Beyond the verandah, a vast pool provides both the focal point of the villa and the centre of your party. It reflects the emerald of the paddy fields and the outline of coconutpalms and mango-trees, while lotus-trees release their blooms onto the water. In a country where so often the spiritual and sensual dovetail, there is no better place than Frangipani to reconnect with your family or throw a huge, splashy party.

Frangipani (+91 832 227 2395; www.frangipani goa.com), from £110 a room a night.



ISTANBUL

MAMA SHELTER

The latest addition to the French designer Philippe Starck's collection of low-price, high-design hotels, Mama Shelter has landed on the roof of a department store on Istanbul's Istiklal Avenue, which throbs by day and night. Mama Shelter's quirky rooms are compact, as you would expect at the price, but every detail, from shower recesses to bed lighting, has been fastidiously designed. The newly opened roof terrace,

with sweeping views of the city, will quickly become a favoured place to hang out for a sundowner or dinner a perfect way to start an Istanbul party night. Mama Shelter (+90 212 252 0100; www. mamashelter.com), from about £70 a room a night.

MARRAKESH SELMAN

New to the jet-set circuit is Marrakesh's Selman, a 56-room luxury palace painstakingly built in original stone and injected with sexy Moroccan-Oriental glitz by the interiors architect Jacques Garcia, of Hôtel Costes fame. The sultry, dramatic interiors, opulent brocade furniture, ornate pillars, grand chandeliers, suede walls and blackand-white zellige-pattern tiling are the perfect setting for a young Moroccan and international crowd (including Garcia fans who fly in from Paris for the weekend). The Selman's

energy is only heightened by the 16 Arabian horses that roam the property. Lounge around the 80-metre pool in the day, drink cocktails in the candle-lit bar until dawn, and recuperate in the Espace Vitalité Chenot spa. Moroccan boho-luxe at its best.

Selman (+90 212 524 459600; www.selman-marrakech.com), from £335 a person a night B&B.