



DONNA MARIA SURSOCK RESIDENCE

THE GARDENS | SOFAR

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HISTORY

[Location](#)

Sofar village owes its existence to the railway built by the Ottomans in 1880 which linked Beirut to Rayyak in the Beqaa valley with many stops on the way and one of them being Sofar. Because of its easy access, purity of air and stunning location overlooking the beautiful Hammana valley, the village quickly grew under the impulse of Beirut's "Haute Bourgeoisie" who made it its favourite summer destination by building many lavish villas.

The center of attraction was no doubt the Sofar Grand Hotel, built in 1890 by the Sursocks immediately opposite the train station. This legendary hotel attracted the highest of society as well as the elite of gamblers every summer since first opening its doors and up to the civil war in 1975.

The Villa known as Donna Maria Sursock's residence was built by her husband Alfred in 1909. The Villa looks a little like a small fairy tale castle and is interesting because of its decorative elements in cast cement, a novelty at the time.

The Villa was used extensively all summers up to 1975 and unfortunately, as with the hotel, it was severely damaged and looted by the various armies and militias roaming the area at the time of the civil war. It stands today wrecked and uninhabited, but forms a majestic and dramatic backdrop to the events that took place in the front esplanade which has been totally rehabilitated, a first step towards complete restoration of the villa.



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LOCATION

[Hire of Gardens](#)

The Villa is situated on a hill overlooking the old Damascus road immediately above the Sofar Municipality building.



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HIRE OF GARDENS

[Hire Charges](#)

Season

The Gardens are open from mid May to mid September.

Capacity The gardens can easily accommodate some 1,500 seated guests and over 2,000 guests for a cocktail reception.

Services & Facilities:

- Basic floodlighting of the esplanade and villa.
- New electrical points evenly spread around the esplanade which may be used to power extra lighting.
- Emergency electricity generator.
- Toilets for both ladies and gentlemen.
- Toilets for staff.
- Practical and wide service area.
- Co-ordination of all services from beginning to end by Management to ensure overall smooth operation.



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HIRE CHARGES

Open Bar

The prices listed below typically refer to a private reception for the 2012 season and include the related [Services and Facilities](#) listed on the previous page. All prices are subject to VAT.

We have set the cost of hire per number of guests attending so that the more people there is, the less costly it becomes per person. This is a way to encourage the larger functions without penalizing the smaller ones.

Number of Guests		
From	To	Cost (\$)
1	99	3,500
From	To	Cost P/P (\$)
100	149	35.00
150	199	34.50
200	249	34.00
250	299	33.50
300	349	33.00
350	399	32.00
400	449	31.00

Number of Guests		
From	To	Cost P/P (\$)
450	499	30.00
500	549	29.00
550	599	28.00
600	649	27.00
650	699	26.00
700	750	25.00
750	799	24.00
800	and above	by agreement





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Beverages - Open Bar

Wines

It is the policy of Sursock Palace Gardens to supply exclusively all Open Bar beverages and local wines consumed on the premises. A corking fee will be charged for any foreign wine or Champagne supplied by the client.

Regular Open Bar

This formula means that beverages are available in unlimited quantities to guests from beginning to end of a function. This is charged at \$10.00 per guest and offers all of the following beverages:

Alcoholic	Whisky	Dewar's White label, johnny Walker , J&B ...
	Vodka	Stolichnaya
	Gin	Gordon's
	Martini	Bianco, Rosso & Dry
	Cinzano	Bianco & Rosso
	Rum	Bacardi
	Beer	Almaza & Laziza
Soft	Water	Mineral, Perrier, Tonic & Soda
	Cola	Regular & Diet
	7-up	Regular & Diet
	Juices	Orange, Pineapple, Tomato & Exotic

Premium Open Bar

This is charged at \$12.00 per guest and in addition to the Regular Open bar offers the following:

Whisky	Dewar's, Jack Daniels & Johnny Walker Black Label
Vodka	Absolut

Soft Open Bar

For those who do not wish to serve alcohols, our soft selection is charged at \$8.00 per person.

The choice of the Premium Open Bar exceptionally entitles clients to bring, if they so wish and at their cost, any additional beverages not listed above.





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Beverages - Wines

Sound & Light

Wines

Those are not included in the Open Bar formula and are charged per bottle opened.

The following local wines are offered.

Listed wines are subject to availability and prices may vary.

Corking Fee

For foreign wines, the client may bring his own and Management will charge a corking fee as follows.

All wines including sparkling white wines will be charged \$10.00 per bottle opened. Any bottle not opened will be returned to the client.

The same goes for Champagne and the corking fee is set at \$15.00 per regular bottle opened.

Kefraya	Les Breteches	At \$12.00 per bottle
	La Dame Blanche	At \$12.00
	Chateau 06 (red)	At \$23.00
	Blanc de Blancs	At \$18.00
Ksara	Reserve du Couvent (red)	At \$13.00 per bottle
	Chateau Blanc de Blancs	At \$15.00
	Chateau 06 (red)	At \$18.00
	Chardonnay 07 (white)	At \$21.00
Musar	Rubis	At \$12.00 per bottle
	Cuvee Reservee (red)	At \$13.00
	Cuvee Reservee (white)	At \$13.00
	Hochar Pere et Fils 02 (red)	At \$22.00
Coteaux de Botrys	Mourvedre et Grenache	At \$20.00 per bottle
	Cuvee de l'Ange (red)	At \$24.00
	Chardonnay (white)	At \$15.00
	Marsanne et Chardonnay	At \$24.00





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Sound & Light

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Sound System

Our Gardens are situated in the midst of a residential area, and if we are to avoid disturbing the neighbourhood, it is essential that the sound generated remains concentrated in a designated area and free of any distortion. This is why we are very particular with the quality and performance of the sound systems we use and why we work with only one approved supplier.

The system we most currently use is state-of-the-art d&b audiotechnik from Germany. It is professionally set-up and monitored throughout the event by a technician.

Light System

Included in the Cost of Hire and as part of our [Services & Facilities](#), we offer a basic yet elegantly lit Garden. However, some of our clients may wish to add lighting to what already exists. In that case we put them in direct contact with our sole supplier of lighting equipment who is one of the best professionals in the field of lighting-up events and who will offer good value for his services.

For our basic lighting we draw our power from the state, but our stand-by generator kicks in within seconds in case of a state power failure. This means that any installation above our basic system will have to be powered independantly by a generator lived for the occasion. Prices will vary according to power required and time used.



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Valet Parking

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It is usually always possible to park in front of the municipality building and along the drive leading to the villa and beyond.

At the request of our clients, we can arrange for the services of a team of professional valets with insurance to cover the cars in the unlikely event they may suffer damage. The cost of the service is \$40.00 per valet.

Guests taking advantage of this facility may experience some delay at getting their cars back especially during peak time.



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Management & Contacts

[Contract](#)

This venue is managed by its owner Roderick Sursock Cochrane assisted by Nadim Medawar and their little team. They are always present in order to coordinate between all the different trades and supervise the smooth operation of every event.

This personal touch is an essential ingredient for parties to remember and memories to cherish.

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Contract

[Photo Gallery](#)

To ensure the smooth operation of any event, clients are requested to fully understand the following contract and to inform interested parties accordingly.

To view the contract please [click here](#)



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Photo Gallery

History



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