



## Cool living in the Al Hajar mountains

Perched 2,000 metres above sea level, Alila Jabal Akhdar is one of the most spectacular resorts that Oman has to offer.

Overlooking a dramatic gorge, surrounded by awe-inspiring views of the Al Hajar Mountains, it is the perfect base for exploring the region's magnificent landscape of rugged, untouched beauty while experiencing the height of sumptuous comfort.

Inspired by ancient forts, traditional Omani construction techniques using local stones are combined with contemporary architecture to create a uniquely relaxing environment, from the pool to the spacious suites that look out to mesmerising views of the cliff and mountains.

Committed to a sustainable future, this landmark Nizwa hotel was constructed according to LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) principles, and is designed in harmony with the environment, preserving the extraordinary natural beauty of the region.

Being committed to LEEDs principles this new resort required a selection of reverse cycle heat pumps that would fit in with their environmental ethos and provide a stable potable water temperature throughout the year. The heat pumps were specified by consultants M/s Atkins who then turned to UK based manufacturer Calorex – a company specialising in design and manufacture of heat pump equipment.

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Calorex provided 15 reverse cycle heat pumps that can cool and heat water distribution systems throughout the resort. The units were specified to operate across all of the climatic conditions likely to be experienced by the high altitude resort, which meant working in winter temperatures of below freezing and summer time temperatures above 40°C. The heat pumps were chosen in preference to resistance heating and separate chillers due to their incredible efficiency and extremely low carbon footprint. Typically the system is expected to consume four times less power than a traditional electric or fossil fuel system. As an added benefit the units will reverse cycle during hot summer weather to provide water cooling.

“We specialise in providing bespoke products for high-end projects like Alila Jabal Akhdar” said Calorex’s Managing Director, Richard Carrington. “Our heat pumps are designed specifically for the Middle Eastern climate and with our many years of active experience in this market we were able to design and build a set of bespoke units that ‘worked out of the box’ and ticked every requirement that M/s Atkins requested.”

Calorex has supplied reverse cycle heat pumps for potable water heating, swimming pool temperature control and potable water cooling since 1980. Calorex is represented in the Sultanate by Al Ansari Trading who are based in Muscat.

