

OUR
FAVOURITE
VILLAS
WORLDWIDE

Condé Nast Traveller

THE WORLD MADE LOCAL

APRIL 2022

Tune in Bliss out

HOW PUERTO RICO IS STRIKING A NEW CHORD IN THE CARIBBEAN

PLUS

THE BEST HOTEL OPENINGS IN PARIS
INDONESIA'S SECRET ISLAND HIDEOUT
A WINE LOVER'S GUIDE TO PIEDMONT
THE TABLES TO BOOK IN ASIA
JAIPUR'S DESIGN HEROES

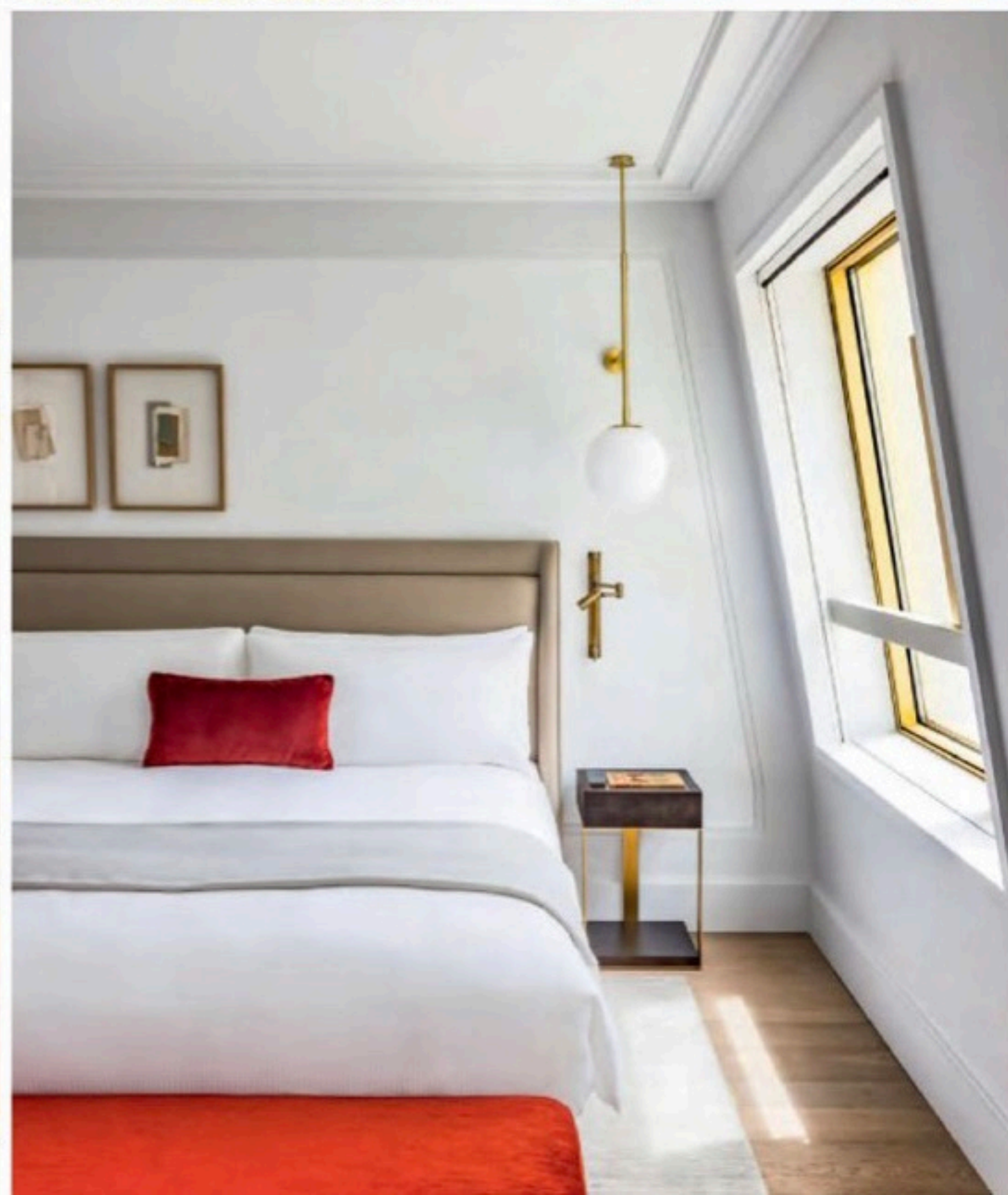
GO WILD
OUTDOOR BREAKS
IN THE UK

ALL ABOARD
CRUISES TO
HOP ON IN 2022

BEST FOR REVIVALISTS

KIMPTON ST HONORE PARIS

What is it with hotels and department stores in Paris? Within months of the Cheval Blanc appearing next door to the famous La Samaritaine last year, Kimpton's first French property opened in what was once the department store's luxury outpost on the storied boulevard des Capucines. Designed by La Samaritaine architect Frantz Jourdain in 1914, its Belle Epoque façade is still a showstopper, with its wrought-iron balconies and arched bay windows that once housed elaborate product displays. Inside, many of the original features remain: the imposing spiral staircase, balconies and monumental period lifts that have been restored but aren't in use. The scheme by local design darling Charles Zana is sympathetic to the history, and feels like a Parisian pied-à-terre meeting the Art Deco style of Thirties luxury hotels. There's a creamy elegance to the 149 bedrooms and suites, all parquet floors, Carrara marble and Chanel-inspired black-and-white curtains. If the design feels quintessentially French, from the Pierre Mesguich mosaics to archive-inspired Pierre Frey fabrics, there is also an American notion of convenience that's true to the Kimpton brand: yoga mats, portable phone chargers, even a little sex kit. But the most un-Parisian place of all is the 190-seat Montecito restaurant that channels insouciant Palm Springs, with its green-walled terrace, seaside colour scheme and Cali-Mex menu created by Paris-based food writer Carrie Solomon. With a modest but inviting pool and a spa from French cosmetics company Codage, there's a sense that this American brand has done right by a Parisian icon. LT
Doubles from about £375; kimptonsthonoreparis.com



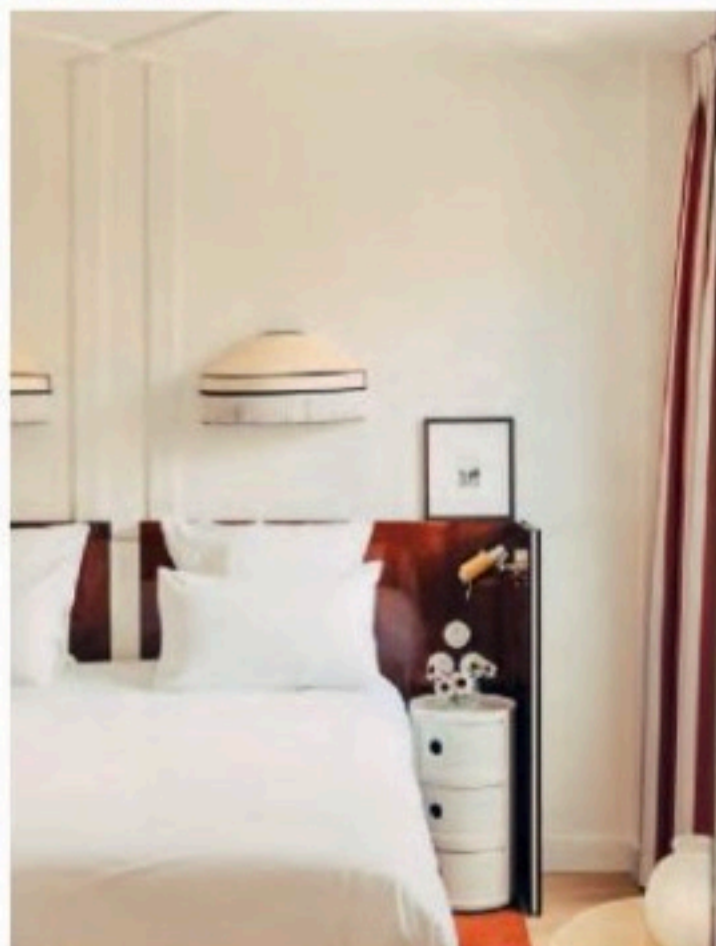
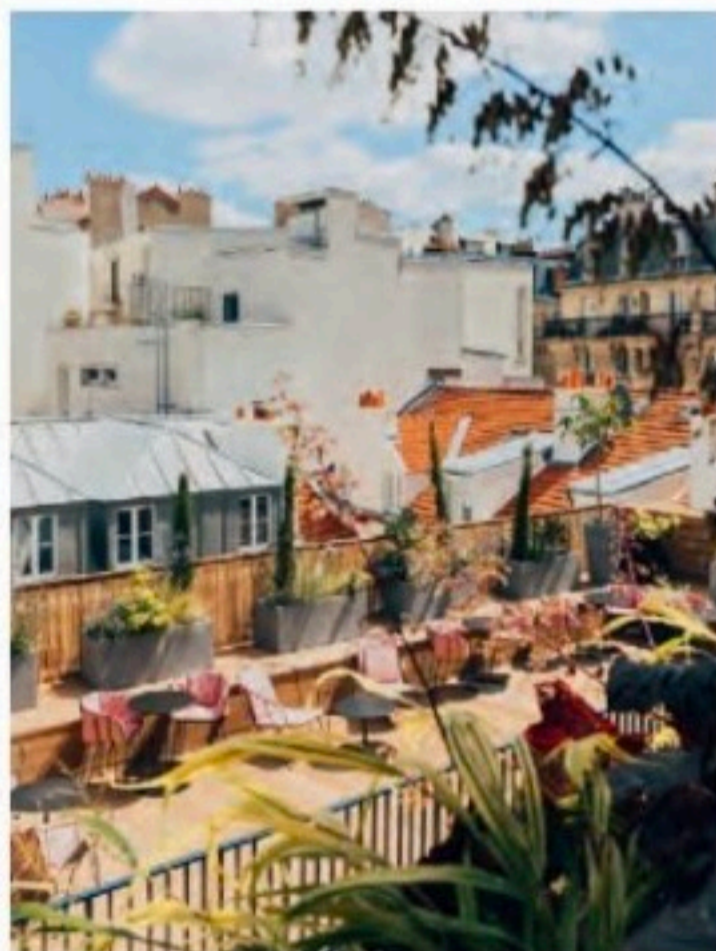
BEST FOR TWENTIES DECADENCE

HOTEL ROCHECHOUART

Strolling through the Pigalle neighbourhood and into this eight-storey Art Deco relic, there's a distinct sense of a time when the Twenties roared. A late-night hotspot on boulevard Marguerite de Rochechouart, the hotel's Jazz Age incarnation drew in travelling artists, intellectuals and a smattering of stars. It's now part of Orso, a new collection of hotels run by industry veterans Louis and Anouk Solanet (also behind Hotel Wallace below), and the sultry theatrics of the era make a welcome comeback. The couple teamed up with

Charlotte de Tonnac and Hugo Sauzay of Festen Architecture to revive the building's legacy with modern touches. Some of the finest original details were restored, from the Thirties blue mosaic floor in the restaurant to the marble staircase and glass lift. Upstairs, 106 rooms were given an autumnal, woody touch with shades of bronze,

ochre and terracotta. Decorative details, from the burl-wood headboards to the curved armchairs and alabaster suspension lamps, thoughtfully whisk guests to another time. The Sacré-Coeur looms large from northern-facing bedroom windows (and in some cases, balconies) but is visible to all from the rooftop bar. On the ground floor, an old-world brasserie with plush banquettes serves up comforting Parisian classics, from chicken-liver pâté to roasted pork belly with crisp *frites* and the signature crêpe cake – a family recipe guests invariably try to coax out of the staff. Come spring, the experience will come full circle when the old Mikado club of the 1920s, one floor underground, returns as a speakeasy to begin a new chapter of Pigalle nightlife. LT *Doubles from about £160; hotelrochechouart.com*



BEST FOR MOD-RETRO STYLE

HOTEL WALLACE

Despite being within eyeshot of the Eiffel Tower and the gilded dome of Napoleon's tomb, the 15th arrondissement in western Paris has always felt more like a neighbourhood than a destination per se. For the Wallace's owners, Louis and Anouk Solanet, that was part of the charm when they gave a coolly retro makeover to a derelict building which locals might vaguely recall was once a low-cost hotel. Now, it feels like the heart of a quietly hip village, in an area of little boutiques and specialist food stores. The Solanets maintained the original structure but added several floors and a leafy terrace accessible from the third floor, with a Nordic bath, outdoor sauna and classic view of Parisian rooftops. Among the 45 bedrooms, several on the first few floors have more of a motel vibe – small but comfortable, with windows looking onto an interior glass roof. The others, including the top-floor junior suite with a sizeable double balcony dotted with deckchairs and bedroom skylight, evoke the elegance of an Orient Express-style night car. Headboards and shelves are sleek, in lacquered and varnished wood, while brass reading lamps, fringed light fixtures and Kartell nightstands add to the retro vibe. Striped coral-and-white curtains lend a hint of Riviera colour, while the terrazzo floors and bathroom countertops are signatures of the interior designers, French-Italian duo Samantha Hauvette and Lucas Madani. There's no on-site restaurant, but the glass-covered cocktail bar has a menu of local nibbles selected by the team at cult rotating-chef restaurant Fulgurances. LT *Doubles from about £130; hotelwallaceparis.com*

BEST FOR CHATEAU GRANDEUR

SAINT JAMES PARIS

If ever there were a reason to camp out in the elegant but sleepy 16th arrondissement, it's for this property, Paris's only officially designated château-hotel. Occupying what was once the site of the city's first hot-air balloon landing field, this neoclassical former home of President Adolphe Thiers became the site of the Thiers Foundation, a school and academic residence, in 1892. In the 1980s, the space was transformed into the Saint James Club of Paris, a London-style private hangout.

The hotel came about a decade later, with the decor handled by legendary designer Andrée Putman. Since then, it's undergone two other radical transformations, most recently by Laura Gonzalez, whose affection for mixing antiques with modern furnishings has turned it into a romantic Parisian abode once again. Soaring volumes, decorative frescoes and contemporary nods to old-world elegance abound, from the grand entrance to the library bar. That extends upstairs to 50 bedrooms and suites done up with nature-inspired wallpaper, custom-designed carpets, stunning chinoiseries and a warm palette of earthy greens, mustards and terracottas, alongside a mish-mash of motifs and Pierre Frey fabrics. Chef Julien Dumas plays exclusively with seasonal ingredients (sourced largely from the hotel's organic garden) for an inventive menu at Bellefeuille restaurant, kitted out like a winter garden. The most notable change comes one floor down with the addition of a three-room Guerlain spa, inspired by Greco-Roman thermal baths. It all seems decidedly more château than hotel, and entirely unlike any other getaway in Paris.

LINDSEY TRAMUTA *Doubles from about £410; saint-james-paris.com*

