

**LOOK WHAT'S DIFFERENT!** Dinner in the dark, sailing as a twosome on the Seine while drinking champagne, sleeping in a bed suspended in the air ... everything is possible in Paris! Hotels, restaurants, and cultural venues all offer visitors new experiences during their stay in the capital. An overview of these original places and products that are part of the reason that Paris is unforgettable.

## PARTICULAR ... HOTELS

From the trendy Himatic at the Bastille to the highly-select Plaza Athénée in the Golden Triangle, numerous Parisian hotels vie with each other to stand out from the rest, offering their guests unique types of services or layouts. In the small circle of luxury hotels, **Le Meurice\*\*\*\*\*** pampers child guests. Several activities are organized to occupy them, either with or without their parents: treasure hunt in the hotel, fun trail around the capital, games on the pond in the nearby Tuileries gardens with pretty sail boats in wood given as a gift by Le Meurice to its young guests. The boat of *My private boat*, proposed by the **Hotel Plaza Athénée\*\*\*\*\***, is reserved for adults. It is a wonderful motorized vessel all in mahogany and chrome, with a captain and hostess aboard. In fine weather, it takes two people on a one-and-a half-hour trip along the river with gourmet refreshments (champagne and pastries) served onboard. A short stroll from the Plaza Athénée, the **Radisson Blu Le Dokhan's Hôtel\*\*\*\*** is housed in a fine corner building in the Haussmanian style, near to Trocadéro. Renovated by decorator Frédéric Méchiche, who has made it a showcase for art, it boasts the only champagne bar in Paris (more than 60 references) and especially a magnificent 1930s lift, whose interior has been entirely covered with panels from an authentic old Vuitton trunk. On the other side of the Seine, in a quiet street in the Latin Quarter, the **Hôtel Seven** welcomes its guests in an eccentric and more contemporary atmosphere, as the names of its rooms suggest: "Absolute levitation", "Nearer to the stars", "Suspended bath", etc. These rooms with their very special interior decor all share a common feature: a supremely comfortable suspended bed for sweet dreams. In the same spirit of originality, a neighbouring smaller version **One by the five**, offers guests the original and unusual experience of being the only guests. In fact, the hotel has just one 50 m<sup>2</sup>, luxuriously decorated suite: suspended bed, starry sky, dance floor, and perfume and gourmet refreshments ... There are sensual pleasures too for those who spend the night in the two suites on the top floor of the hotel **Murano Urban Resort**, between Bastille and République. Each of these has a private swimming pool (2 m x 4 m) heated all year round, ideal for unwinding away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Relaxation and well-being are also guaranteed at the luxurious spa of the hotel **Royal Monceau Raffles Paris\*\*\*\***, near to Étoile: the Spa My Blend by Clarins. Just like the palace, this huge space, designed by Philippe Starck, offers clients a wonderful 28-metre-long swimming pool, the biggest swimming pool ever in a Parisian hotel. On the edge of the Bastille, the 'eco-trendy' hotel **Himatic** stands out from hotels of its kind, not only because of its unusual decoration by designer Matali Crasset, but also because of the service partly carried out by machines. These include 100% automatic food and drink distributor, practical for getting something to eat or drink at any time of the day or night. Finally, an out-of-the-ordinary sensorial experience awaits those who enjoy chilling out at the **Kube Hotel**, a magnificent building tucked away in a little street in the popular and cosmopolitan 18th arrondissement. For this, you need to have reserved at The Ice Kube by Grey Goose, a bar in ice with a temperature of -10 °C. Wrapped in warm clothing provided at the entrance, visitors can enjoy a vodka amidst the 20 tons of ice that form the structure of this unique place in Paris.

### → HÔTEL HIMATIC

71 rue de Charonne, Paris 11th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 43 67 56 56  
[www.hi-matic.net](http://www.hi-matic.net)

- **HÔTEL LE MEURICE\*\*\*\*\***  
228 rue de Rivoli, Paris 1st  
Tel +33 (0) 1 44 58 10 10  
[www.meuricehotel.fr](http://www.meuricehotel.fr)
- **HÔTEL MURANO URBAN RESORT**  
13 boulevard du Temple, Paris 3rd  
Tel +33 (0) 1 42 71 20 00  
[www.muranoresort.com](http://www.muranoresort.com)
- **HÔTEL ONE BY THE FIVE**  
3 rue Flatters, Paris 5th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 43 31 52 31  
[www.onebythefive.com](http://www.onebythefive.com)
- **HÔTEL PLAZA ATHÉNÉE\*\*\*\*\***  
25 avenue Montaigne, Paris 8th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 53 67 66 65  
[www.plaza-athenee.fr](http://www.plaza-athenee.fr)
- **HÔTEL ROYAL MONCEAU RAFFLES PARIS\*\*\*\***  
37 avenue Hoche, Paris 8th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 42 99 88 00  
[www.leroyalmonceau.com](http://www.leroyalmonceau.com)
- **HÔTEL SEVEN**  
20 rue Berthollet, Paris 5th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 43 31 47 52  
[www.sevenhotelparis.com](http://www.sevenhotelparis.com)
- **KUBE HOTEL**  
1-5 passage Ruelle, Paris 18th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 42 05 20 00  
[www.muranoresort.com](http://www.muranoresort.com)
- **RADISSON BLU LE DOKHAN'S HOTEL\*\*\*\***  
117 rue Lauriston, Paris 16th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 53 65 66 99  
[www.radissonblu.fr/dokhanhotel-paristrocadero](http://www.radissonblu.fr/dokhanhotel-paristrocadero)

## RESTAURANTS FOR THE SENSES

Pleasing the eyes and taste buds of their clients is the duty of any restaurant worthy of this name. In Paris, however, some of these also seek to appeal to senses that are usually less aroused during a meal, such as hearing and touch. Such is the case at **Bel Canto**, where the waiters and waitresses are experienced opera singers. Throughout the evening, they regularly sing the greatest opera arias accompanied by a pianist. As its name indicates, the restaurant **Dans le noir? [In the dark]** receives its guests in total darkness, the service being carried out by blind people. Founded in 2003, Dans le noir? seeks to raise public awareness about visual disability, but also to raise awareness about the importance of taste and smell, in relation to the dominant sense of sight. A similar initiative is undertaken at the **Café Signes**, a cafe-restaurant run and frequented by deaf and hearing-impaired clients. Also opened in 2003, this unique place in the capital seeks to encourage dialogue between two worlds, two languages: that of words and that of signs. The culture of interpersonal relations is also the focus at **Lapérouse**, but in a more intimate, sometimes secretive way. Established in 1776 in a building facing the Seine, this famous restaurant has conserved its original architecture and decoration. On the first floor, it has ten or so private rooms for hosting from 2 to 12 guests. 'La belle Otéro', 'Le quai aux fleurs', 'Les sénateurs', 'Victor Hugo', 'Les amours'... these private rooms with their evocative names played host to all the important figures in art and politics of the 19th-century in Paris, as well as numerous romantic rendezvous.

→ **BEL CANTO**  
72 quai de l'Hôtel de Ville, Paris 4th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 42 78 30 18  
[www.lebelcanto.com](http://www.lebelcanto.com)

→ **CAFÉ SIGNES**  
33 avenue Jean Moulin, Paris 14th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 45 39 37 40  
[www.cafesignes.com](http://www.cafesignes.com)

→ **DANS LE NOIR ?**  
51 rue Quincampoix, Paris 4th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 42 77 98 04  
[www.danslenoir.com](http://www.danslenoir.com)

→ **LAPÉROUSE**  
51 quai des Grands Augustins, Paris 6th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 43 26 68 04  
[www.laperouse.com](http://www.laperouse.com)

## ANOTHER LOOK AT CULTURE AND HERITAGE

The secular history of Paris has left its imprint throughout the city. Numerous sites, enhanced by talented contemporary artists, bear witness to this. The Maison **Baccarat** is one of these. Founded in 1764, the Baccarat crystal glassworks has installed its Parisian quarters in the former mansion house of Marie-Laure de Noailles in the 16th arrondissement. For the decoration of the venue, which also has its own gastronomic restaurant, carte blanche was given to Philippe Starck who created a magical world in concrete, mirrors and glass in which features a huge 2.5-metre crystal-glass chair and a spectacular 14-metre-long luminous mirror table, in crystal! Another great house, another prestigious creation: the **Espace culturel Louis Vuitton** on the Champs-Élysées. Inaugurated in 2006, this place, entirely devoted to contemporary art, is situated on the 7th floor of the eponymous house. Access is via a work of art by Danish artist Olafur Eliasson: a lift that plunges visitors into total darkness. Excitement guaranteed ... From here visitors can have fun looking for the **Méridien de Paris** which they can trace through the streets of the capital. As a tribute to the astronomer **François Arago**, the Dutch artist Jan Dibbets give this line a physical form with 135 bronze medallions 12 centimetres in diameter fixed to the ground. Marked with the name of Arago, they define a north-south route that crosses many wonderful monuments, such as the Louvre, the Palais-Royal, the Luxembourg gardens or the Observatoire de Paris. While following the route, walkers can also admire the lights designed in 1950 by Jean Cocteau for the arthouse cinema **Studio 28**, in the heart of Montmartre. Or they could head over to the 7th arrondissement to soak up the Japanese atmosphere of another cinema, **La Pagode**, and its garden, a listed building.

→ **BACCARAT**  
11 place des États-Unis, Paris 16th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 40 22 11 00  
[www.baccarat.fr](http://www.baccarat.fr)

→ **ESPACE CULTUREL LOUIS VUITTON**  
60 rue de Bassano, Paris 8th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 53 57 52 03  
[www.louisvuitton-espaceculturel.com](http://www.louisvuitton-espaceculturel.com)

→ **HOMMAGE À ARAGO DE JAN DIBBETS**  
[www.amb-pays-bas.fr/hommage-a-arago-de-jan-dibbets.phtml](http://www.amb-pays-bas.fr/hommage-a-arago-de-jan-dibbets.phtml)

→ **LA PAGODE**  
57 rue de Babylone, Paris 7th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 45 55 48 48  
[www.etoile-cinema.com/salle/pagode](http://www.etoile-cinema.com/salle/pagode)



## **STUDIO 28**

10 rue Tholozé, Paris 18th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 42 54 18 11  
[www.cinemastudio28.com](http://www.cinemastudio28.com)

## **AND ALSO ... SAVOURING PARIS'S HONEY**

Several roofs in the capital are home to millions of bees that collect nectar in gardens and on balconies to produce an excellent all-flower honey, free from all pesticides, as required by the city!

Above the famous restaurant **La Tour d'Argent**, six hives have since 2008 been producing excellent honey, sold only in the restaurant's shop. In 2010, the town hall of the 4th arrondissement installed nine hives on its roofs. The honey produced is very subtle in flavour and has been named **Miel of Paris**; it is sold at La Grande Épicerie du Bon Marché. The rooftops of the Palais Garnier Opera House also house several hives that provide a small amount of honey. If you are lucky, you will find it in the **Boutique of the Palais Garnier Opera House**. The most recently-installed hives can also be found in the 4th arrondissement, on the roof of the **Crédit municipal de Paris**. The honey from its four hives is sold on site during Heritage Days, on the third weekend in September. Its name? 'Le Miel de ma tante' [My aunt's honey] of course ... Also to look out for is the 'Miel Béton' from the **Banque du Miel**, which supports projects for the pollination of the city.



### **BOUTIQUE OF THE PALAIS GARNIER OPERA HOUSE**

Rue Halévy, Paris 9th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 40 01 17 82



### **CRÉDIT MUNICIPAL DE PARIS**

55 rue des Francs-Bourgeois, Paris 4th



### **LA BANQUE DU MIEL**

Tel +33 (0) 1 55 87 08 70  
[www.banquedumiel.org/mielbeton.html](http://www.banquedumiel.org/mielbeton.html)



### **LA GRANDE ÉPICERIE DE PARIS**

Le Bon Marché, 38 rue de Sèvres, Paris 7th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 44 39 81 00  
[www.lagrandeepicerie.fr](http://www.lagrandeepicerie.fr)



### **LA TOUR D'ARGENT**

15 quai de la Tournelle, Paris 5th  
Tel +33 (0) 1 43 54 23 31  
[www.latourdargent.com](http://www.latourdargent.com)



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