

Paris

The 'City of Lights' certainly has no shortage of abodes for the night. Here's our guide to Parisien places to stay, whether you're looking for a gargantuan palace with views of the Eiffel Tower, an on-site restaurant-of-the-moment, or a colourful boutique, just steps from the Louvre

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01 We recommend:

LE MEURICE

Opened on Rue de Rivoli in 1835, Le Meurice originally catered to the English upper crust, then royalty and world leaders (often fleeing or deposed ones) plus celebrities of their day such as Salvador Dalí and Yehudi Menuhin. Its position — overlooking the Tuileries Garden, facing the Musée d'Orsay and just up the road from the Louvre — gives it an edge over some of the other super-deluxe addresses in the 8th or 16th arrondissements. The other thing that gives it *crème de la crème* status is the service — lacking, alas, at some high-end Paris hotels. Rooms and suites are decorated in Louis XIV style — golds, pale greys and blues, wide beds and roomy marble bathrooms. The public spaces combine listed mosaic floors, neoclassical pillars and antique mirrors, plus witty design by Philippe Starck, who carried out a major revamp in 2007. Alain Ducasse has recently taken over the kitchens, and young pastry star Cédric Grolet is in charge of cakes and desserts. Don't miss out on a cocktail in the old-school bar.

Rooms: Doubles from €640 (£543). lemeurice.com

02 Best for the Champs-Élysées:

PRINCE DE GALLES

This newly restored hotel thrills with its art deco architecture and design by Pierre-Yves Rochon, whose other recent clients include the London Shangri-La and Savoy. The original 1920s mosaic, murals and Prince of Wales feather sconces in the bar are stand-outs; the rooms and suites

are all about sleek details, from drawers that pull themselves closed to Bulgari bathroom products. The restaurant does bento-style lunches and gastronomic grandeur by night. **Rooms:** Doubles from €600 (£509). princedegallesparis.com

03 Best for affordable flair:

HÔTEL CRAYON

This boutique hotel (26 rooms, one suite) sets the standard for fun, inexpensive city-centre stays. The decor mixes colour-blocking — with walls, textiles and details in bold, saturated reds, blues and greens — and an illustrative theme, extending from the lobby to some of the rooms. Designer Julie Gauthron scoured Lyon, Marseille and Nice, as well as Paris' own Saint-Ouen flea market for customisable vintage furniture. Low prices — for this area — mean no frills but you do get Le Palais Royal, Les Halles and the Louvre, all just minutes away.

Rooms: Doubles from €150 (£127). hotelcrayon.com ➤

RIGHT BANK

If Paris for you means Céline, Chanel and Lanvin, and you feel lost without an eyeful of the Eiffel, then you'll feel at home in the 8th, 6th and 1st arrondissements. Hotel rooms in the smartest central districts bring to mind the famous JP Morgan quote, 'If you have to ask the price, you can't afford it' — especially the elite palace hotels such as Le Meurice and Hôtel Le Bristol Paris, where the wealthiest guests are known to take over whole floors.



