

Shake it up

History is served with a twist at four of Paris's newest hotels. By Lisa Johnson



Les Bains

7 rue du Bourg l'Abbé, 3rd arrondissement

In the 19th century, this building housed the first spa in Paris. Redesigned in 1978 as a nightclub by Philippe Starck, it attracted everyone from Basquiat, Bowie and Prince to Moss and Depp. It reopened last year as a hotel, with 39 rooms, a club, and a brasserie-bar designed by Denis Montel of RDAI Architecture; bubbles in the red ceiling look like giant drops of water about to fall onto the chequerboard floor. +33 1 42 77 07 07, www.lesbains-paris.com



La Réserve Paris

42 avenue Gabriel, 8th arrondissement

This *hôtel particulier* opposite the Grand Palais was built in 1854 for the Duc de Morny. It is intimate and discreet, with more suites (26) than rooms (14), a spa and a guests-only library. Designer Jacques Garcia drew inspiration from the portraits of 19th-century artist Jacques Joseph 'James' Tissot for its makeover, which includes a contemporary French restaurant in black, cream and gilt, and a crimson-hued bar. +33 1 58 36 60 60, www.lareserve-paris.com



Hôtel Bachaumont

18 rue Bachaumont, 2nd arrondissement

When Les Halles was a thriving market, this was a haunt of wealthy merchants. It has now been reinvented as a 49-room hotel with art deco interiors by rising star Dorothee Meilichzon and a restaurant-bar courtesy of the Experimental Cocktail Club. In contrast to the light-filled brasserie, the bar - accessed via a Versailles-inspired corridor - is decidedly snug, with cobalt-blue bar stools and burnt-orange velvet seating. +33 1 81 66 47 00, www.hotelbachaumont.com



Maison Souquet

10 rue de Bruxelles, 9th arrondissement

'La Païva', the daughter of a Russian weaver, whose Champs-Élysées salon hosted Delacroix and Flaubert, is one of the great courtesans who inspired this 20-room hotel. Designed, like La Réserve, by Jacques Garcia, it has a lantern-lit façade, a One Thousand and One Nights lounge, a conservatory, and a reading room/bar. Tasselled lamps and paintings of voluptuous nudes complement the silks and velvets. +33 1 48 78 55 55, www.maisonsouquet.com

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