

TRAVEL

The most luxurious places to stay in Paris

France's capital is hosting the Olympics and these gorgeous hotels and apartments are all contenders for a gold medal, says Lisa Grainger



[Lisa Grainger](#) | Monday March 11 2024, 12.13am GMT, The Times

For the past few decades, France has been the most visited country in the world — with 79 million visitors in 2022 — and when the Olympics start in July, those figures are set to soar. For those wanting a taste of the action and glamour in the City of Lights, where to stay? Of the 108 five-star hotels in the city, here Luxx travel experts suggest 12 of their favourites, from gilt-adorned palaces to tiny private spaces for just four.

La Fiermontina Vendôme



One of the two lavish apartments

The Place Vendôme isn't a place in which many people live. It's the legendary square to which — if you're the calibre of Ernest Hemingway or Maria Callas or Rudolf Nureyev — your chauffeur whisks you to stay at the Ritz. Or, if your bank balance permits, where you stroll from the nearby Tuileries to choose a diamond from the glittering ring of fine jewellers that encircle a towering statue of Napoleon. That guests can today stay in the private two-bedroom Fiermontina Vendôme is thanks to Fouad Giacomo Filali, grandson of the great French art deco sculptor René Letourneur, who bought the palatial apartment 20 years ago from the Rothschilds, refurbished it and launched it as one of the most beautiful rentals in Paris. Open its five enormous windows above Van Cleef & Arpels and before you lies the Place Vendôme. Click the double-height steel doors shut and between the elaborate 18th-century cornices and Versailles parquet floors stand some of the family's jaw-dropping art collection: in the elegant entrance hall are sculptures by Letourneur and Jacques Zwobada alongside a couple of Chassacs; in the living room a Modigliani alongside a Francis Bacon.



The rooms were kitted out with the help of Laboratoire Design

With the aid of Laboratoire Design, the airy pale-grey and white rooms are furnished with clean-cut 21st-century designs alongside antiques: a Gio Ponti table and Knoll sofa next to giant chinoiserie urns and an Empire desk. A housekeeper is on hand as is a former Ritz concierge, to provide whatever you need, from fresh croissants for breakfast to a helicopter trip to Versailles for dinner. Fine restaurants are within walking distance, but an honesty wine-chiller and a capacious kitchen means this is the dream Paris pad to play out Marie Antoinette fantasies. **Lisa Grainger**

From €4,500 a night for four, lafiermontinavendome.com

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