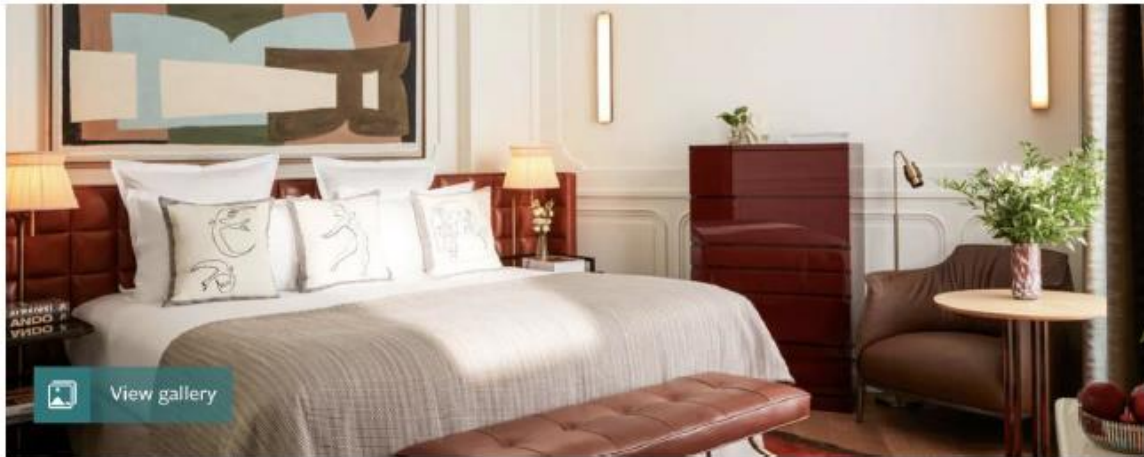


# The Telegraph



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## Villa des Prés

Paris, France

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8/10

Telegraph expert  
rating

" A new five-star hotel converted from a former art nouveau apartment block in the heart of Saint-Germain-des-Prés. It's a discrete hideaway with subtle, contemporary design, decent-sized rooms and a pair of spectacular top-floor suites with views over the rooftops. Slick service and excellent breakfasts are on offer, but unfortunately no restaurant. "

## 9 /10 Location

Rue de Buci is an old medieval street which forms a long curve between Haussmann's Boulevard Saint-Germain and St Michel. This is the former literary, and still the contemporary art hub, of Paris, just a couple of minutes' walk from Les Deux Magots, favourite café of de Beauvoir, Satre, Hemingway and Picasso, among others. It's also a brilliant base for exploring the city in general with three metro stations – Saint-Germain-des-Prés, Mabillon and Odeon – all within a couple of hundred yards.



## 8 /10 Style and Character

The bones – balconies, bay windows, ironwork and stonework – of this newly converted and refurbished set of apartments are full of art nouveau flourishes and features, as to be expected in a building dating to 1911. But within, the interiors strike more of an art deco tone, or at least a 21st-century take on the style. The property is the culmination of a new investment (the hotel opened in December 2023) by a family of hoteliers who commissioned French interior designer Bruno Borrione to open up the ground floor and transform it into an interconnecting reception, bar and breakfast area that conjures a chic, boutique atmosphere. Borrione has employed design ideas including scalloped wood-panelling, colour-field carpets and clean-lined contemporary furniture – think leather seating and black ash coffee tables – to ensure the minimalism and clean lines retain a sense of warmth and welcome.



8/10

## Service and Facilities

The front desk is well staffed with efficient, smartly dressed receptionists and a helpful concierge. There's a turndown service too, which is prompt and friendly. The spa and leisure area in the basement includes a decent-length (13m) lap pool, a gym, fitness studio, a semi-circular sauna and a treatment room. There are no permanent spa staff on-site, so therapists – supplied by Odacité – must be booked in advance for treatments.

- ✔ Bar
- ✔ Pool
- ✔ Sauna
- ✔ Wi-Fi
- ✔ Fitness centre
- ✔ Room service
- ✔ Spa

## Rooms

The 34 bedrooms (including 14 suites) continue the ground-floor's design scheme, but the colours are lighter and brighter and each features at least one of 50 abstract paintings commissioned from 11 different French artists for the hotel. Rooms are of an indulgently generous size, with even the smallest decently spacious for central Paris. The bathrooms, complete with heated floors and mosaic tiles in a palette of red and gold, are especially cosy and indulgent. Most have walk-in showers. For those who enjoy rustling up their own espresso, there are top-of-the-range Illy coffee machines on the bar console in each room. A belt and braces combination of double and secondary glazing helps to guarantee silent nights, free of noise from the surrounding Parisian streets.

The very best rooms are up in the eaves (in contrast to many hotels where these can often be pokey). They consist of one-bedroom suites with balconies overlooking a panoramic, sweeping vista which runs from the Eiffel Tower to the Sacré Coeur.

## **7** /10 **Food and Drink**

There is no restaurant, but the excellent breakfast buffet – fresh juices, fruit, meats, patisserie and so on – is supplemented by cooked dishes to order including eggs to your preference. Despite the absence of a dining room, the hotel curiously manages to provide room service, which is supplied by Le Mabillon restaurant (just around the corner) and offers classic French brasserie cooking such as omelette au comté and escalope de veau Normande. The hotel does have a bar, with a smart cocktail menu available in the evening.

## **7** /10 **Value for Money**

Double rooms from €539 (£460) in low season; and from €721 (£617) in high. Breakfast excluded (€35 [£30]).

### **Access for guests with disabilities?**

Yes. The hotel has two adapted rooms and the lift is at street level. Visual alarms, large button phones and a magnetic induction loop are also available.

### **Family-Friendly?**

This is really a hotel for couples, but might also suit small families. Cots are supplied without charge and an extra bed (also big enough for an adult) is available at €150 (£128) per night. There are no interconnecting rooms, however.

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