

TATLER



TRAVEL GUIDE 2025

THE 101 BEST HOTELS IN THE WORLD



THE DOLLI

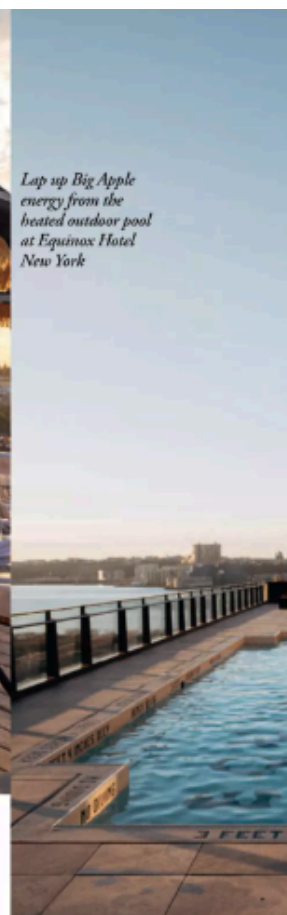
Athens, Greece

The Dolli comes with an unbeatable plus: a rooftop restaurant with a 360-degree panorama of Athens. Look ahead and there, startlingly close, is the Parthenon. Left, over the infinity pool, is Mount Lycabettus; look right, and you'll see the Temple of Hephaestus. It's a terrific venue: tranquil at breakfast and lively at dinner, when the celeriac soup with lobster is a must. For years, The Dolli was where *le tout* Athens congregated, and the hotel has wisely retained the original vast wooden doors and huge windows. Still, the decor is full of surprises. An enormous silver frog and a whopping fake sheep greet guests on arrival. And down the hall, Le Bar Secret boasts Cocteau plates, a Calder mobile, contemporary furniture and 18th-century tables: 'very British, with Greek touches', as the staff claim. The eclecticism continues upstairs with bedrooms that are epitomes of modernity. The hotel aims to make the Athens experience exquisite, but they do better than that. They make it fun. *Doubles from £754 (thedolli.com).*

In the middle of the action, ancient and modern, The Dolli has a rooftop restaurant and a treat of an infinity pool



Lap up Big Apple energy from the heated outdoor pool at Equinox Hotel New York



HÔTEL DES GRANDS VOYAGEURS

Paris, France

You'll feel like donning an Yves Saint Laurent tuxedo here, in homage to Betty Catroux. Bang in the middle of the Left Bank, it's the definition of cool: bohemian with a touch of art deco, its no-nonsense, mid-century lines conjuring up a Helmut Newton backdrop. Milanese architect and interior decorator Fabrizio Casiraghi's eclectic eye is apparent throughout, celebrating an opulent style that's more old-world European than entirely French. The rooms are generously sized, with huge beds as their centrepieces; and Poppy, the dimly-lit subterranean bar-cum-nightclub, is always buzzing with cosmopolitan types dressed in black, admiring the original Chagall lithographs and sipping on Hemingway daiquiris. The inspiration for the restaurant is the golden age of travel – the scale and glamour of those grand passenger ships – so expect a menu that mixes Gallic flair and NY classics. (Think lobster rolls, burgers and, of course, foie gras on gingerbread.) The gym may be small but, with frescoes by Osanna Visconti, it's equally aesthetically pleasing. *Doubles from £258 (hoteldesgrandsvoyageurs.com).*

Sleek decor at the Hôtel des Grands Voyageurs is inspired by the golden age of ocean liners

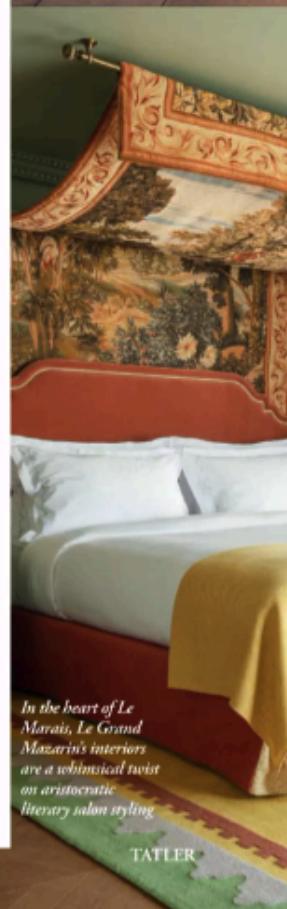


LE GRAND MAZARIN

Paris, France

Surely not? In a quiet street at the heart of Le Marais, just a stone's throw from the Carnavalet and Picasso museums? With the Pompidou right down the road, as well as the best falafel in Paris, at L'As du Fallafel? But that's the location of the Mazarin, which earns further points for its proximity to the Jardins des Archives and du Palais Royal, the two most magical squares of green in the city. Tucked away, it feels like a cosy, secret hideaway, albeit one offering any five-star service you could wish for (without the faff and sometimes obsequiousness of those larger, more imposing 'palace' hotels). The vibe here is warm and chic, almost like you're staying at the home of a fabulous friend who just happens to have a divine chef in residence. And in this bijou bolthole's decor, interior designer extraordinaire Martin Brudnizki has brought all his whimsical – and seriously romantic – sensibilities to bear. There are Aubusson-style tapestry canopies draped above beds, while the green-striped pool boasts both a ceiling fresco inspired by Cocteau and a fabulous hammam. The star of the show, however, is the divine room-service menu, executed with peerless panache, which will have you dreaming about the gravadlax with salmon roe and pickled mustard seeds long after you've left. Not to mention the great gluten-free bread, nor the wonderful taste sensation of the signature taramasalata with sea urchin, followed by the perfect ribeye. *Doubles from £578, including breakfast (legrandmazarin.com).*

In the heart of Le Marais, Le Grand Mazarin's interiors are a whimsical twist on aristocratic literary salon styling



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