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Hôtel Le Saint

Paris, France

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8/10

Telegraph expert rating

" This comfortable, civilised hotel is set on being saintly, with a chic Left Bank location and atmosphere that keeps up the Saint-Germain spirit. Behind its classical period façade, rooms mix 19th-century features and modernity with a feast of wallpapers and patterned fabrics. "

Rooms from
£

278 per night

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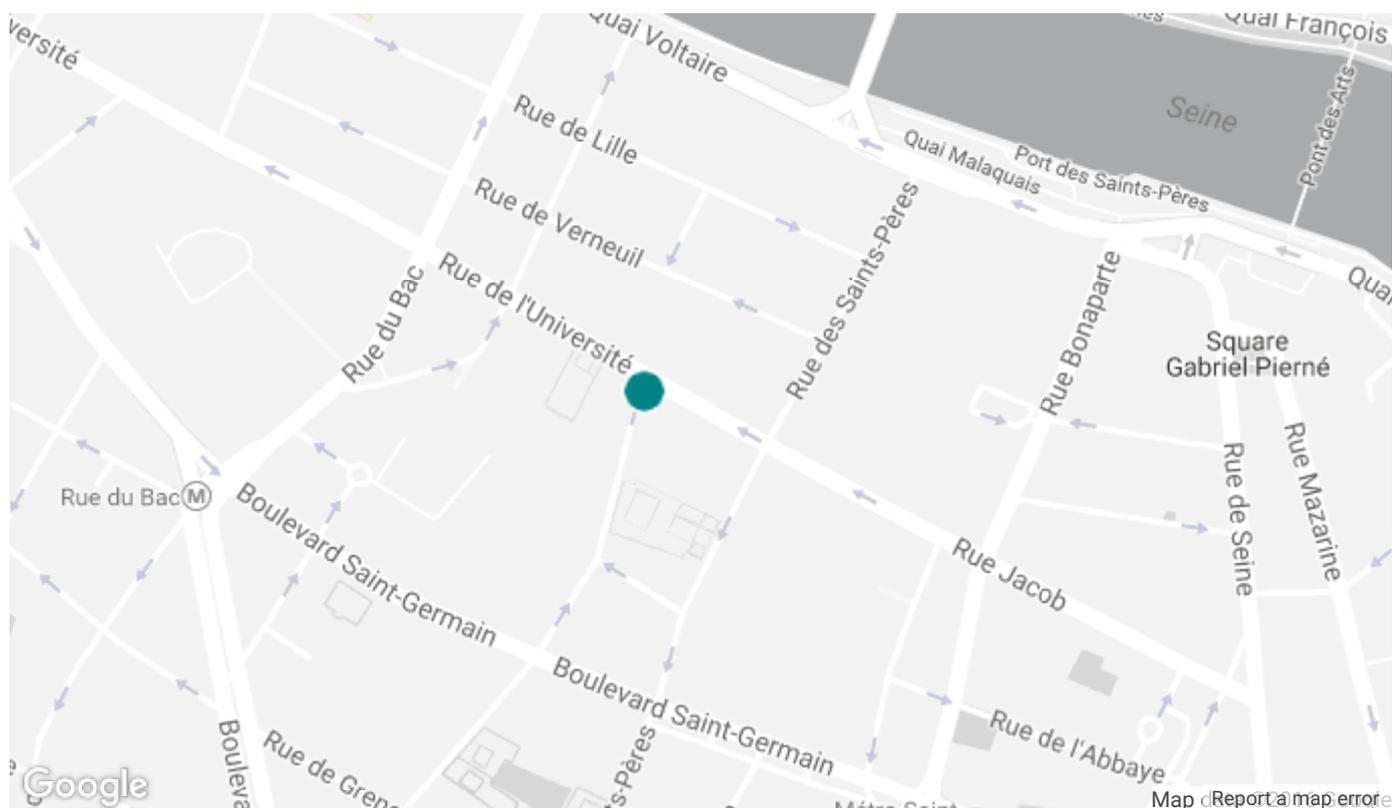
By **Natasha Edwards,**

DESTINATION EXPERT

Location

9/10

This street was once a duelling ground, yet today it's very quiet, while being in the heart of civilised St-Germain-des-Prés, amid numerous antiques and design shops. It's a short walk to the fashion boutiques and celebrated literary cafés of boulevard St-Germain, to Musée d'Orsay or across the river to the Louvre. Rue du Bac or St-Germain-des-Prés metro stations are both nearby.



Style & character

9/10

Owner and decorator Bertrand Plasmans cleverly joined three adjacent hotels, the Lenox, Saint-Thomas Aquin and Saint-Vincent, into one 54-room hotel, redesigning the interior yet keeping the three stairwells to preserve the sense of intimacy of a civilised St-Germain home, where history meets contemporary comfort.

On the whole, I think it works pretty well, with a relaxed calm mood and the gain of a real log fire burning in the lounge's period fireplace. Perhaps what I liked best was the sheer variety of fabrics of chair covers, cushions and curtains, the cabinet de curiosités collection of vases and decorative objects, or the hotel scent created by Barnabé Fillion.

Service & facilities

7/10

Staff are friendly and helpful. There's a gym, hammam and treatment room in the basement, plus a meeting room, and the possibility of bike hire or booking a private chauffeur to take you to and from the airport.

- ✔ Fitness centre
- ✔ Laundry
- ✔ Parking
- ✔ Restaurant
- ✔ Room service
- ✔ Steam room/hammam
- ✔ Wi-Fi

Rooms

8/10

Varied wallpapers and fabrics create a range of different moods in the 54 rooms and suites, going from the colourful, graphic Madeleine Castaing rooms — named after a celebrated antique dealer and decorator — to calm, pale patterns or a more Asian style with Japanese lanterns.

The emphasis is on relaxation, with comfortable beds, upholstered bedheads, lavish curtains, mix of parquet and carpets, and original, slightly surreal black-and-white photos taken for the hotel by Pierre-Elie de Pibrac. A few rooms have fireplaces or balconies, and our wardrobe contained a kettle and a map of suggested exercise routes

around the neighbourhood. Only downside: the usual slightly complicated array of light switches and both bedroom and bathroom were curiously lacking a full-length mirror.

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Food & drink

7 /10

The ambitious Kult restaurant aims to be a local destination as well as a hotel one, entered from the street corner or through the hotel. Overseen by Guillaume Monnet of nearby L'Affable, the menu mixes redone French classics and more exotic additions, such as tuna tataki in Thai broth that could have been a little more courageous with its spicy seasoning.

You can also come here for the bar, with its list of revisited cocktails, although I wasn't totally convinced by a transparent pink rethought Bloody Mary that overdid the celeriac. Kult is also pleasant at breakfast, as you relax in the velvet chairs and sofas and help yourself from the buffet counter to good viennoiseries, and a selection of hot and cold ham, bacon, cheeses and fruit salad. Snacks are also available during the day in the Saint Vincent lounge.

Value for money

7 /10

The smallest double rooms start at €235 (£183), rising to €400 (£312) at peak periods, with best deals from the hotel's own site. Breakfast excluded. Free Wi-Fi.

Access for guests with disabilities?

Wheelchair accessible room available.

Family-friendly?

Yes. Junior suites have a sofa that can sleep a child, complete with teddy bear, or it's possible to reserve communicating family rooms with one double bed, twin beds and two bathrooms. Cot and high-chair available.

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