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French Theory

Paris, France

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8/10

Telegraph expert rating



" This hip but refreshingly unpretentious address brings a taste of the Left Bank's bohemian history back to this latterly bourgeois district. Expect comfortable rooms with a generous emphasis on tech and style, continuing into the in-house 'concept store' and subterranean recording studio. "

Style and Character

9/10

French Theory's overall finish is crisp and contemporary, without going over the top, allowing for a relaxed and comfortable feel. The spacious lobby is flanked by the in-house coffee shop on one side - a pleasing mix of cosy banquettes, a hotch-potch of knick knacks and granite tables - and the chic gift shop, complete with verdant indoor garden, on the other.

The selection of goods in the concept store - from offbeat guides to Paris to cute bouquets of dried flowers - is genuinely well thought-through and local (it doesn't feel like items have just been picked for show), and this attention to detail is played out into the curation of the printed Paris area guides provided by the hotel. A musical theme also runs throughout and brings public spaces and rooms together.



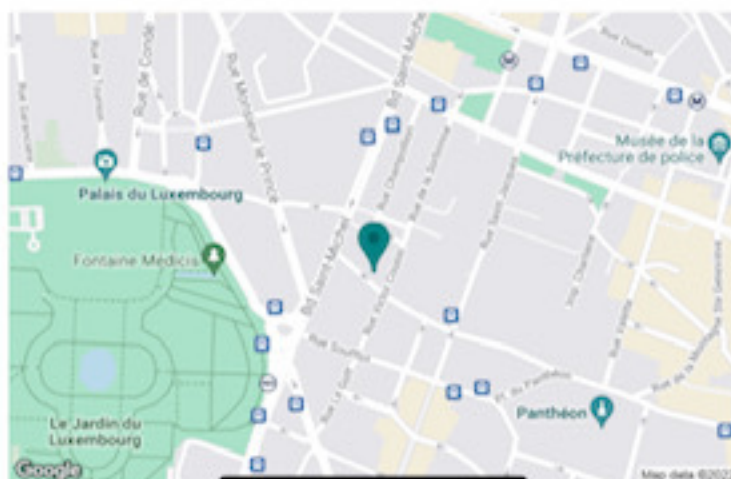


By **Hannah Meltzer**

Location

8/10

A superb location for visitors to Paris. The beautiful Jardin du Luxembourg park is on the doorstep and the picture-book charms of Saint-Germain and its historical cafés (Café de Flore, Les Deux Magots, Brasserie Lipp) are within five-10 minutes' walking distance. To the east, visitors can wander the lively Latin Quarter, taking in the architecture of the Sorbonne. The Seine and surrounding attractions (Louvre, Orsay) are 15-20 minutes away by foot. Nearest Metro: Maubert - Mutualité (Line 10); Odéon (Lines 10&4).



Rooms

8/10

Rooms are comfortable with a stripped-back, minimal feel, punctuated with well thought-out design elements: think retro Sixties-style lamps and chairs and tastefully selected local art. The bed is excellent. The finish and style is consistent across room grades, with the main difference coming in the dimensions. The higher (Professor) room grade features kettles (the idea being you get your coffee in the coffee shop) – which can also be added on demand in standard rooms.

Fitting with the theming, the sound offering is particularly generous, with Bang & Olufsen bluetooth speakers as standard and vinyl players in higher room grades. Care has gone into the selection of vinyls, artworks and books in the rooms; instead of a traditional minibar, the management frame these elements as a ‘cultural minibar’, with each selection available to purchase in the Concept Store. Bathrooms feature rain showers and custom bath products. The hotel offers a couple of atypical room grades: the ‘Study Room’ single and Classmate room with two bunk beds – useful for group travel on a tighter budget.