

The Fab Five

Looking for a special-occasion hotel with a certain *je ne sais quoi*? We round up the most romantic hotels in Paris

Hôtel d'Aubusson

1 A grand carriageway entrance and lofty flagstoned lobby set the style at this hotel, which has guarded its 17th-century aura. A log fire crackles in the massive stone fireplace in a salon hung with Aubusson tapestries, and there's a calm patio courtyard and an animated bar. Rooms are comfortable and traditionally furnished, rather than the latest



standard buffet for a superior à la carte offering.

● Doubles from **£103**

Hôtel Vernet

3 Behind its Haussmannian façade, the century-old Vernet has moved from the status of neglected dowager to a member of the hip Design Hotels selection. It has been refreshingly rejuvenated, while



style exercise, but they are good-sized for the price, with high ceilings, tall windows, heavy curtains and canopied beds in some rooms.

● Doubles from **£237**

Hôtel des Grands Hommes

2 Left Bank writers and academics, along with tourists from all over the world, stay at the Hôtel des Grands Hommes. The rooms are compact but comfortable cocoons, decorated with Toile de Jouy fabrics with neoclassical motifs and old engravings. Ask for a Superior room overlooking the Panthéon, or a fifth-floor deluxe room where you can have breakfast on your balcony. They take breakfast seriously here and recently replaced the



preserving the ever-so-Parisian style of its Belle Epoque origins - spectacular glass and iron verrière, original fireplace in the bar, stained-glass stairwell, colonnaded lobby. The bedrooms feel like they're made for relaxation, in a timeless style with high ceilings, big comfortable beds and armchairs, where natural wood and fabrics are enlivened by colourful throws and cushions.

● Doubles from **£214**

Maison Athénée

4 An out of time return to the Second Empire in homage to nearby Palais Garnier opera house, down to every detail from the romantic portraits and gilded capitals in the lobby to boudoir-like Red Bar, and



suitably melodramatic bedrooms. Romantic rooms are opulent, awash with Toile de Jouy prints, pleated lampshades and heavily swagged and tasseled curtains, and mosaic bathrooms. It's classic Jacques Garcia, so full of atmosphere.

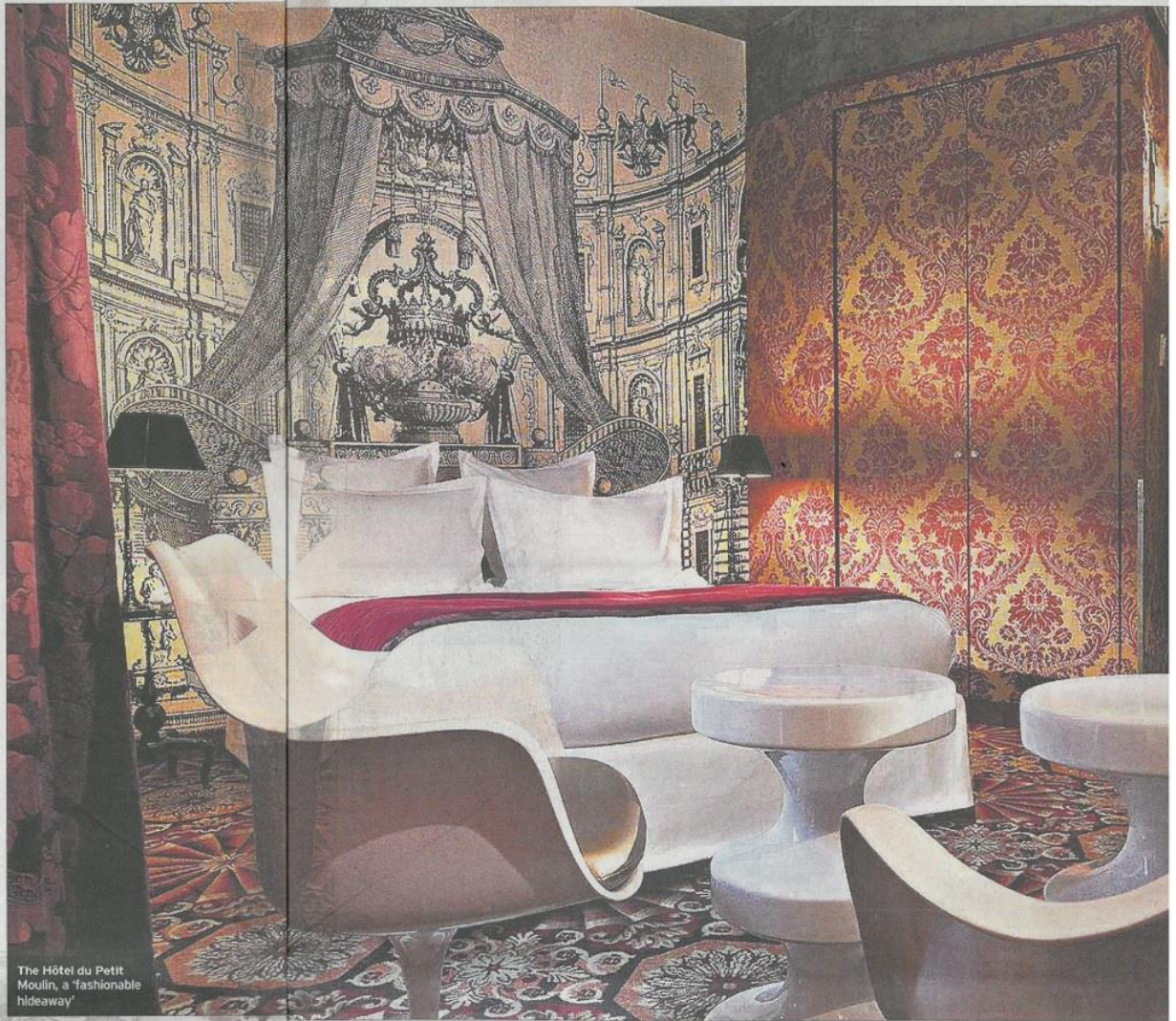
● Doubles from **£165**

Hôtel du Petit Moulin

5 A unique blend of Marais history and the design flair of Christian Lacroix has quickly made this a cult address. It's fashionable but with an atmosphere that is more secret hideaway than show off. The 17 rooms are all different, with boldly clashing colours and lush fabrics. Lacroix took inspiration from the idea of the voyage in time and place in a mix that takes in a starry night sky, catwalk sketches, ancient beams, heavy taffetas, Venetian mirrors, sultry baroque and Sixties furniture.

● Doubles from **£160**

● To read the full reviews, check availability and to find a complete guide to Paris's most romantic hotels, see telegraph.co.uk/romanticparis10



The Hôtel du Petit Moulin, a 'fashionable hideaway'