

FRANCE

Travel • Food & Wine • Culture • Holidays

November 2020 • Issue 266



MEDIEVAL MAGIC

Take a stroll in the Provençal village of Saint-Paul de Vence

£4.25



LE CHAT NOIR

The iconic black cat and the golden age of Paris

BEAUJOLAIS RUN

Join the car race to the latest wine release

MOVEABLE FEAST

Travel along the Vallée de la Gastronomie

BESANÇON

Spend a weekend in the citadel city



JEWEL IN THE CROWN

HOTEL MANSART, PARIS

On the corner of Place Vendôme, surrounded by chic shopping streets lined with designer boutiques and close to Place de la Concorde, La Madeleine church and other famous landmarks, this chic Parisian hotel has impeccable credentials when it comes to location. Inside, the stylish décor, a mix of classic and contemporary, gives the impression of a hotel with a much higher price tag. If you're looking for a central location and want to spoil yourself without breaking the bank, this hotel is hard to beat. I was particularly impressed with the sumptuous

breakfast room, with its plush purple velvet seating and stunning feature window, and I quietly coveted some of the antique furniture in my bedroom.

The building hasn't always been a hotel, it was once home to royal jeweller Alexandre-Gabriel Lemonnier, who helped make Place Vendôme the jewellers' district.

Among other works, he made Empress Eugénie's crown, which can now be seen at the Louvre Museum. Which, incidentally, is just a short walk away.

KAREN TAIT

Hotel Mansart
Tel: 0033 (0)1 42 61 50 28
paris-hotel-mansart.com
Rooms from €210



PHOTOS: GILLES TRILLARD

Accommodation NEWS

Awards, new openings and ski season start

BIG SLEEP

Two French establishments have been praised in National Geographic Traveller's Big Sleep Awards, celebrating the world's best new hotels. The Hotel Château du Grand-Lucé near Le Mans, Sarthe and the Hôtel Le Coucou, Méribel, were both highlighted thanks to their outstanding hospitality.

BACK TO THE BEACH

A new hotel in secluded eastern Corsica, around 40km from Bastia, is set to open its doors in spring 2021. The three-star Hôtel San Lucianu is situated in the idyllic setting of Moriani-Plage, part of the characterful Costa Verde region of the island. Situated amid a eucalyptus park, the hotel boasts direct access to the beach. Rooms start at €90. hotelsanlucianu.com

SNOW SURE

As French ski resorts prepare for a season like no other, tourism businesses based in the mountains are making sure holidaymakers' time on the pistes goes without a hitch. Mark Nathan, of Alpine accommodation provider Chalets1066 (chalets1066.com) in Les Gets, has been blogging about ski resort safety in the coronavirus era. "I'd say that a ski holiday in the mountains is probably much safer than staying in most places in the UK," he said. "But I would book with a company with strong Covid-19 cleaning policies." He added: "We will assure that the partner companies we work with disinfect ski equipment, however, customers may want to consider buying helmets."

Accommodation

NEWS

Awards, new openings
and ski season start

BIG SLEEP

Two French establishments have been praised in National Geographic Traveller's Big Sleep Awards, celebrating the world's best new hotels. The Hotel Château du Grand-Lucé near Le Mans, Sarthe and the Hôtel Le Coucou, Méribel, were both highlighted thanks to their outstanding hospitality.