



1st ARRONDISSEMENT

HOTEL CRAYON

This hotel, *opposite*, is the creation of Julie Gauthron, an artist with a taste for clashing colours and wildly patterned wallpaper. The result is astonishing: full of wit and panache, but not for the faint-hearted. It's not exactly restful. In some rooms, Gauthron's daughter has been allowed to colour in the monochrome wallpaper, hence the *crayon* (pencil) after which the hotel is named.

Of course, it's a matter of taste. Those who prefer calmer interiors are probably better off in the cheapest rooms (named Individual Style), which have a palette of just three or four strong colours and are furnished from flea-market finds. The top-priced (though still good value) rooms may be the largest and have the classiest furniture, but they're also the brashest. The hotel is new, so there's a slickness to it, with lovely, powerful showers in the tiny bathrooms. It's eccentrically charming, but you would be forgiven for wanting to wear sunglasses indoors. *25 rue du Bouloi (00 33 1 42 36 54 19; www.hotelcrayon.com). Doubles from €134*

HOTEL THERESE

Among the pioneers of Paris's new generation of boutique hotels, the supremely soignée Sylvie de Lattre stands out. In the late 1990s, she opened the romantic Hôtel Verneuil; three years ago, she created the elegant Hôtel Recamier on Place Saint-Sulpice, which is a model of *luxe, calme et volupté*. Hôtel Thérèse is Recamier's less expensive sibling and a favourite with fashion editors covering the prêt-à-porter shows, thanks to its proximity to the shops of the Palais-Royal (perhaps the smartest in the city, including Marc Jacobs, Rick Owens, Pierre Hardy, Didier Ludot, *centre*, and the fabulous vintage emporium Galerie de Montpensier). It's also well placed for the Louvre and the Palais Garnier.

The least expensive of the 43 rooms (called Classic)

are comfortable, pretty and palpably Parisian, but compact. However, guests do have access to a sitting room tricked out like the drawing room of an art collector's apartment, with Tom Dixon and Jean Royère-inspired chairs and cylindrical side tables bound in parchment. In the higher room categories, the designer Jean-Louis Deniot has inventively interpreted classic Parisian modernism, and his use of Rubelli and Pierre Frey fabrics gives



opened in December 2011, and at its heart there's a cobbled courtyard with a fireplace and a verdant vertical garden on one wall. Inside, the look is sober and contemporary: lots of rough wood, poured concrete, stone and glass, though the effect is warm and unexpectedly homely. The lobby, which doubles as a photography gallery, has an extensive library, and there's a buzzy bar (which serves breakfast) where the soundtrack was chosen by Béatrice Ardisson, a prime mover on the Paris lounge-sound scene. Despite its distance from the Seine, the hotel has its own super-sleek, traditional four-seat Venetian *motoscafo* which can be chartered for river trips (€520 for 90 minutes, including Champagne). *11 rue des Gravilliers (00 33 1 44 54 13 13; www.hoteljulesetjim.com). Doubles from €200*

HOTEL DU PETIT MOULIN

Christian Lacroix has taken a 17-bedroom, 17th-century Marais building with a classic 1900s *boulangerie* shopfront and transformed it into a supremely original hotel packed with captivating details. The result is a fabulously eclectic, fantastical confection of colours, patterns and objects, from polka-dot carpets in the corridors and an arrangement of contemporary ceramic

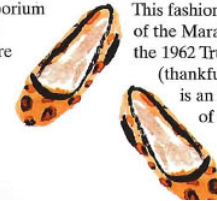


an impression of grandeur quite at odds with the room rate. If only more hotels offered an express breakfast of coffee and a croissant for under €5. *5-7 rue Thérèse (00 33 1 42 96 10 01; www.hoteltherese.com). Doubles from €165*

3rd ARRONDISSEMENT

HOTEL JULES & JIM

This fashionable 23-room hotel north of the Marais, named in honour of the 1962 Truffaut movie but not (thankfully) themed according to it, is an ingenious knock-together of three townhouses. It



stools by India Mahdavi in the lobby to panels of embroidered passementerie and abundant sketches by Lacroix himself. 'The harmony,' says the designer, assuming you can discern it at all, 'is created from a puzzle of inspirations; the feeling of the moment is nourished with elements from the past.' It's madly theatrical, more than a little eccentric (how many hotels welcome not just dogs, but cats?) and with Hermès products in the bathrooms feels both exotic and properly sybaritic. *29-31 rue de Poitou (00 33 1 42 74 10 10; www.hotelpetitmoulinparis.com). Doubles from €190*