

Cognoscenti magazine

Because life is short

Chateau de Chailly
Chailly, France

The 16th century castle that today houses the luxury hotel **Chateau de Chailly** is impressive indeed, festooned with tall red spires atop walls over a meter thick. The big draw here is golf: guests come to test their driving, chipping, and putting skills on the 18-hole, par 72 golf course, set in a lovely landscaped park of 75 hectares. Other recreational possibilities include swimming in the outdoor heated pool, playing tennis, or simply relaxing in the Jacuzzi. There's also a pleasant old-fashioned games room where one can have a cocktail while playing on the full-sized snooker table (with its small balls and large expanses of green felt, the game is far more challenging than its American cousin, "pool".)



A golf hotel in Burgundy

The room occupied by visiting **Cognoscenti Magazine** editors during their recent visit—one of 45 on the property—was comprised of three separate areas. Indeed, it was spacious enough to have warranted the term "suite," if only the space had been effectively utilized; as it was, a central room large enough to serve as a proper sitting room was furnished only with a luggage rack, a side table with telephone, and two chairs. The bedroom was more fully furnished in modern style with a divan, coffee table, and closet in blond wood and smoked glass. The stereo had extra speakers in the bathroom, but the sound quality was poor. A makeshift air-conditioner consisting of a floor-standing unit and a clumsy exhaust hose fitted to a hole in the window was fairly effective at cooling the room, although a few times the exhaust hose an-

noyingly fell out of the hole in the window. By contrast, the bathroom was a sheer delight: exceptionally large, decorated with pretty turquoise tiles, and equipped with twin sink and a separate bath and shower. Mini-bar, mini-safe, and multi-channel TV rounded out the suite of amenities. The room was remarkably silent—double doors and the extended entry spaces guaranteed the tranquillity.

The level of service at Chateau de Chailly was

not quite up to "par." More than once we passed by the reception desk only to observe lines of clients waiting for a single receptionist (who was trying hard, but hopelessly overwhelmed)—this in spite of it being a holiday weekend. Yet we could hear the voices of several other staffers chatting in the back office just steps away; evidently they had not been trained to put the needs of their clients first.

This article was written by contributing editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*. Photo courtesy of *Chateau de Chailly*.

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