

Cognoscenti magazine

Because life is short

HOTEL D'AUBUSSON
PARIS, FRANCE

Looking to stay in a lovely boutique hotel with a superb left bank location on your next visit to Paris? Try **Hotel D'Aubusson**, located on rue Dauphine just a block from the Pont Neuf (Paris' oldest bridge) and within easy walking distance of stellar sights like the Louvre and Notre-Dame. You'll find dozens of appealing restaurants just outside the hotel doors, with the area's large student population, bookstores and cultural events bringing a high level of energy.

The room that visiting **Cognoscenti Magazine** stayed in during a recent visit, one of 50 at the hotel, was surprisingly spacious and trendily decorated in pale shades of orange, gold and green. Tall French windows opened on two sides—one over an inner courtyard, and the other above a quiet side-street—here, in the heart of bustling Saint Germain des Prés, we slept as well as if we had been ensconced somewhere deep in the countryside! There is also a seating area with a lovely reclining sofa. The bathtub/shower in the blue-and-white tiled bathroom was small. There were delightful sketches in the room by Sem, a prolific caricaturist who drew many well-known figures from the early 20th century, including politicians and figures from the picaresque world of horseracing. A particularly well-stocked mini-bar, 24-hour room service and a spacious closet with real wooden hangers (not the plastic kind!) round out the amenities. As General Manager Pascal Gimel notes, "We're a boutique hotel but we meet all the expectations of a full 4-star hotel."



Hip rooms with all the 4-star touches

Fully renovated in 1996, the historic features of this 17th century—like the massive wooden beams that line the ceiling of the hotel's elegant salon—were faithfully preserved even as many modern touches were added. Says Mr. Gimel, "Guests can feel the atmosphere of an older house, but at the same time it's a brand new hotel."

Common spaces are also attractive, with an opulently furnished salon and a lovely interior patio with a fountain. A full English breakfast buffet is served in the Salon des Tapisseries. The lounge, Café Laurent, has a historical pedigree of its own: during their existentialist phase, French intellectuals like Sartre and Camus often came here in the evenings, and the cafe's jazz tradition continues to this day with weekend performances. Recommended.

This article was written by Jeffrey Riggs and other contributing editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*.

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