

Cognoscenti magazine

Because life is short

MANOIR LES MINIMES
AMBOISE, FRANCE

There are any number of four-star hotels in the Loire region, but **Manoir les Minimes** stands out for its extraordinarily tasteful interior design, the work of owner Patrice Longet (previously manager at the historic Château de Chissay). As you visit the opulent chateaux of the region with their tapestries, upholstered chairs and fanciful chests, you come to truly appreciate the refinement of your own room at Manoir les Minimes.

Mr. Longet opened the hotel in 1998 after the complete renovation of its original 18th century building (which was itself constructed on the foundations of the ancient convent “les Minimes”). He employs lavishly rich fabrics in guest rooms, creating an impression of considerable comfort and elegance. Each room has its own décor; the Prestige Suite features Jouy fabric throughout. In the guest room visiting **Cognoscenti Magazine** editors stayed in during their recent visit, two-tone fabric in gold and charcoal clothed the curtains, bedspread, and sofa pillows; the carpet is equally plush; and the 18th century-style chairs, all ovals and curves, are themselves richly upholstered in shades of yellow.

On the manoir’s top floor are several intimate guest rooms with exposed wooden beams. Downstairs, in the breakfast room, a large tapestry commissioned by Mr. Longet depicts nearby sights: the Clos Ducé (where Leonardo da Vinci spent his last years), the Manoir Les Minimes itself (here we are!), the Pagode (the only remaining section of a chateau that was destroyed during the revolution) and the hulking, impressive, ancient Chateau d’Amboise, which is itself visible from the windows of the manoir.



*M. Longet at
Manoir les Minimes*

“This is a place from which people can walk downtown in just a minute or two, look on the Loire—all rooms look on the Loire—be safe (since there is private parking within the gated grounds) and relax,” says Mr. Longet. Relax we did! Recommended.

This article was written by Nicole Medvecky-Riggs and other contributing editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*.

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