

Cognoscenti

magazine

Because life is short

SOFITEL TROCADERO DOKHAN'S PARIS, FRANCE

A tiny, charming elevator lined with Louis Vuitton leather from old steamer trunks; an elegant Empire and Regency period interior by Frédéric Méchiche; and stylish bathrooms in chrome and marble—these are among the delights awaiting guests at the **Sofitel Trocadero Dokhan**.

Staying at this small boutique hotel is like staying at a patrician Parisian townhouse, complete with iconoclastic rooms, strangely winding hallways, and exquisite sitting rooms. There is no restaurant, but there is a lovely champagne bar in 18th century style with gold leaf over pale celadon painted wood panels, neoclassical tables and velvet armchairs. In the salon, engravings by Picasso and Matisse combine with dramatic columns, antique statuettes, a Georgian fireplace and striped fabrics to harken back to the elegant drawing rooms of an age gone by.

Guest rooms exhibit a high degree of design consistency. Here, bedspread, upholstered sofas and chairs, and wall fabrics are all decorated with the same boldly striped pattern. One feels as if one has entered a lavish French “boudoir,” the sort of place where writers, artists and courtesans once gathered. The lush canopy bed is a special delight. Designer Méchiche, who sought to achieve “the elegance and charm of a private residence,” has succeeded splendidly.



Charm of an age gone by

A few minor caveats: Although thick windows ensure that there is little street noise, sound insulation between rooms—particularly sounds caused by people walking on the floors above—could be better. Pillows are oversized and rather lumpy (one might hope for a down pillow at a hotel of this quality). Both guest rooms and guest bathrooms are rather small by luxury hotel standards—although this is, after all, a period building in downtown Paris! The hotel is very nicely situated between the Place de Trocadero and

the Arch of Triumph in an upscale residential neighborhood, a location that is highly convenient for both business and tourist destinations within the city.

This article was written by Jeffrey Riggs and Nicole Medvecky-Riggs, Contributing Editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*.

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