

## Hotel Massé, Paris

This atmospheric design-led space in Pigalle is perfect for stolen moments in Paris's most vibrant neighbourhood

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### **In a nutshell**

Tucked discreetly into a Pigalle streetscape between an architect's studio and a traditional bistro, Le Masse is housed in a typical Haussmannian building with views over the rooftops. It reflects the neighbourhood's distinctive blend of creativity, history and understated cool with an interior inspired by the 1970s and filled with vintage objects and captivating art. The result is a space that feels less like a hotel and more like an artist's studio, with fashion editors and gallery owners meeting on the glossy stairs or at the adjoining local *Le Trente* hangout.

### **Three things I loved**

The lacquered aubergine staircase for feeling like you're in a Parisian's trendy apartment, the proximity to Pigalle's metro and great cafes (*The French Bastards* is next door) and the minimalist exterior which doesn't feel like a hotel but a private club for those in the know.

### **Rooms**

The hotel's minimalist aesthetic extends into the 40 compact guest rooms, where eclectic artworks, brushed stainless steel accents, crisp white linens and muslin drapes create an atmosphere of understated luxury. In my room, a deep marble-framed bath offered the perfect end of day moment with a book, glass of wine and french-made Typology products. Guests can choose either a bath or shower, rather than both so be sure to check in advance, and look for each room's unique ceramic by artist Héloïse Rival. The rooms also come equipped with practical comforts; a Sjöstrand coffee machine, TV and integrated shelving and wardrobe that was open to the room. A velvet bench offers the only seat, aligned with the hotel's characteristically restrained elegance. The smallest rooms are a petite 11m<sup>2</sup> up to the eaves penthouses at 21m<sup>2</sup>.

### **Food and drink**

The breakfast room encapsulates the hotel's oeuvre of not actually feeling like a hotel and offers a choice between sunlit window seats and tables and more relaxed corners furnished with plum-coloured armchairs, burr walnut accents and a long, low sofa and coffee table. Modernist and brutalist sculptures and artworks throughout the space create a gallery-like vibe. The spread is equally refined with a selection of fresh fruit, locally baked crusty breads and cooked-to-order organic eggs served simply in deep white porcelain bowls and steel egg cups. In the afternoon, seasonal cakes are on offer, baked by the wife of the neighbourhood electrician. Not yet open on my visit was *Le Trente*, a two story bar adjoining the hotel which serves small sharing plates and will be a space for guests to connect with Pigalle locals. There will be a room available for private bookings.

### **Backstory**

Hotel Masse is a family run hotel, lead by brother and sister duo Eole and Corto Peyron and it is their first venture together into hospitality but they are hoping for more! It is also a debut for the hotel's architects, Gasparetto Parenti, a firm made up of two former members of Festen Studio famous for their ultra chic designs at Paris's Chateau Voltaire and Hotel Balzac.

### Highlights and experiences

A shiny dark saddle leather key case with a divine aroma and an offer of mint tea which arrived immediately in my room with minimum fuss was the perfect welcome after the mayhem of the first day of Paris Fashion Week. The communal areas are designed to soothe and quietly impress after the sensory overload that is the 9th and 18th arrondissements. The perfect place to plonk and watch the comings and goings of the hotel's fashionable clientele. For those wanting to get out and about, the in-the-know concierge is on hand to recommend local cafes, bars and less touristy local experiences.

### What to do nearby

A short walk from the hotel is Montmartre, where winding streets offer constant glimpses of the commanding Sacré-Coeur and elegant Belle Époque architecture. They are lined with independent bustling pâtisseries, wine shops and bookshops. Tucked behind corners are hidden courtyards, grand doorways and discreet museums. For the culturally curious, history is never far. Only next door is Avenue Frochot, home to the salons once frequented by writers, artists and intellectuals like Hugo, Dumas and Renoir. By night the enduring spectacle of the Moulin Rouge and Folies Bergère are beacons of light and even if cliché, the bohemian neighbourhood retains an authenticity and energy that transcends its tourist appeal. For other big-hitter delights, Galeries Lafayette is 20 minutes away on foot. For a local vibe I'd recommend Restaurant Janine for dinner and the decorated oysters.

### Insider tip

Book a room under the eaves, for a larger space for two and the romantic in-room bath with views over Pigalle's rooftops. An L shaped sofa and bespoke coffee table adds a design-y touch to your morning coffee. Remember to request either a bath or a shower in advance. And leave some budget for the hotel merch, it is exquisitely chic and the new status symbol of quiet luxury.

### Final considerations:

**Can't-miss:** the quiet luxury and calm spaces

**Best for:** solo travel

**Location:** Pigalle, a 3 minute walk to the Pigalle metro station

**Family friendly:** Rooms fit no more than 2 adults so it is not ideal for young families unless booking multiple rooms but cribs can be provided

**Accessibility:** partial, contact the hotel directly to discuss specific needs

**Loyalty group:** NA

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