

The magazine cover features a vibrant photograph of a woman in a black bikini lying on a lounge chair by a swimming pool. The pool is surrounded by lush greenery and a wooden deck. In the background, there's a view of the ocean with waves crashing against rocks. The title 'Condé Nast Traveller' is prominently displayed at the top in large, bold letters.

Condé Nast Traveller

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WHERE TO STAY

HIP HOME FROM HOME

HOTEL PARADIS

10TH ARRONDISSEMENT

With its reputation for shady dive bars, wholesale clothing outlets and, more recently, cool nightclubs, the 10th arrondissement might seem like a curious place for a hotel promising Zen-like calm. But this 38-room charmer in a converted fur shop/derelict motel is on rue des Petites Ecuries, one of the quietest streets in the neighbourhood. The owners enlisted designer Dorothee Meilichzon, best known for her work on the Experimental Cocktail Clubs in London, New York and Ibiza, to rethink the interiors, and she came up with a mix of textbook Scandinavian minimalism with subtle riffs on French elegance (faux carved mouldings in the downstairs sitting room; original exposed beams in the top-floor suite, with its unparalleled views of the Sacré Coeur). There are bespoke rugs and hound's-tooth fabric headboards in the bedrooms, and whimsical, retro-chic wallpapers in the corridors; and although the ceilings on the upper floors are comically low, it all adds to the feel of a cosy Parisian pied-à-terre. This homely atmosphere is helped by the Kusmi tea in the rooms and tasty homemade cakes and yogurts freely available in the breakfast bar. There is no restaurant, but the hotel is close to plenty of good bistros, including laid-back next-door neighbour Vivant Table, and Le Richer. www.hotelparadisparis.com. Doubles from about £90



MAD ABOUT THE MOVIES

HOTEL 123 SEBASTOPOL

2ND ARRONDISSEMENT

The film world has been one of interior designer Philippe Maidenbergs' passions for many years, so it was hardly surprising when he was given the task of transforming this 63-room hotel on boulevard Sébastopol into a fantastical homage to cinema. From the outside, it looks like any other shop on this busy street, and the lobby was indeed an old-school perfumery, now reimagined as a classic movie-theatre entrance with an illuminated black-and-white signboard and a deep-pile, palm-leaf-embroidered red carpet that wouldn't look out of place in Cannes. Each of the six upper floors is named after a personality in French cinema, including prolific film-maker Claude Lelouch, Oscar-nominated scriptwriter and director Danièle Thompson and actress Elsa Zylberstein, all of whom have contributed to the look. In the bathrooms, black flight cases used to transport camera equipment now serve as sink surrounds, and scripts, storyboards, movie reels and set photographs are incorporated into the artworks. From the upper floors (once occupied by offices)

there are superb views of the neo-Gothic Musée des Arts et Métiers on rue Réaumur. Downstairs there's a sunny conservatory bar configured like a Hollywood film set with enormous spotlights, bespoke leather directors' chairs and glamorous mirrored tables for breakfast (an impressive Continental spread) or cocktails made with fresh syrups and infusions (try the Vesper Martini). The 20-seat screening room shows three films daily (requests are encouraged) and the super-hip Experimental Cocktail Club is nearby. www.le123sebastopol.com. Doubles from about £185

