

VINCENT LEROUX



The Best Room at ... Le Royal Monceau — Raffles Paris

An underappreciated gem in the 8th deserves a second look during Europe's busiest summer.

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[SAVE ARTICLE](#)

By now, the Paris hotel landscape is pretty well defined. Everyone has their favorite spots and books accordingly depending on the season or the purpose of the visit. Fashion editors, an especially jaded bunch, are particularly picky about their accommodations when in town for the annual ready-to-wear and [haute couture](#) collections, and they rarely venture from the pack with their tried-and-true, if by now too familiar, venues. They'd be wise to reconsider, if my most recent experience is any indication. During the [July couture shows](#), I stayed for the first time at [Le Royal Monceau - Raffles Paris](#) and discovered an underrated gem of a hotel in the 8th arrondissement that like any self-respecting Parisian hardly shows her age. Dating from 1928, the property received a top-to-bottom renovation

courtesy of Philippe Starck that opened in 2010 and just three years later picked up the prized "Palace" label, which distinguishes it as among the finest in the French capital. The standard of design remains high, with a bright color story enhancing the vibes throughout; rock 'n' roll motifs in the suites help. But it's the personalized care that stood out upon arrival. There, on the desk in the room, was an illustrated map of the city featuring my likeness and a couple of recent *T&C* covers. Now, that's what I call bespoke hospitality. Here, general manager Nicolas De Gols answers a few questions about the property's history, its dining program, and why every hotel needs an art concierge like theirs.



A view of a deluxe room at Le Royal Monceau - Raffles Paris.
MR.TRIPPER

**Tell me about the signature suite at Le Royal Monceau.
What makes it special?**

Situated at the prestigious 41 Avenue Hoche, nestled behind a discreet private entrance to Le Royal Monceau – Raffles Paris, a collection of three spectacular Presidential Suites offer guests wonderfully elegant and luxurious yet understated and welcoming living spaces, each spanning more than 3,700 square feet. These exclusive accommodations have been meticulously designed to resemble the ambiance of a private residence, where ultimate comfort meets attention to the finest detail. Amongst these

luxurious Presidential Suites, the exquisite Raffles Suite is a breathtaking three-bedroom haven exuding turn-of-the-century Parisian sophistication, complete with a living room and magnificent dining room designed for entertaining and private dinners, private fitness area with a personal trainer, a dedicated chef and florist, and direct access to the hotel's tranquil Clarins & myBlend Spa.



A view of the prestige suite at Le Royal Monceau - Raffles Paris.
MR.TRIPPER

What is the starting rate for the suite, and what kind of guest packages can you build around it?

The starting rate of the Raffles Presidential Suite is 20,000 euros a night or about \$22,457. Le Royal Monceau – Raffles Paris offers a range of exclusive, personalized experiences designed to create memorable moments for guests, such as in-suite meals prepared by the hotel's expert chefs and in-suite private guitar lessons. Other unique experiences include a private guided tour of the iconic Arc de Triomphe, just a short walk from the hotel, where guests enjoy breakfast before the monument opens its doors to the public. Alternatively, for a unique aperitif, the hotel can arrange private access after the closing hours, allowing guests to enjoy the splendid views at sunset while savoring delightful refreshments and a glass of champagne.

Are there any special experiences guests should ask the concierge for when they arrive?

Upon arrival, guests are invited to an immersive and insightful art tour of the property. Intrinsic part of Paris's tapestry of the arts, Le Royal Monceau offers a range of cultural programming, including an art bookstore dedicated to contemporary art, an art gallery, a private collection of 300-plus works of art spread throughout the hotel's private and public spaces, and a cultural service overseen by the hotel's [art concierge](#). Always at the ready, the art concierge is available to arrange museum visits, curator-guided tours of exhibitions, visits to artist's studios, art galleries or private collections, private viewings, and cultural activities for children.



A view of the Presidential Suite at Le Royal Monceau - Raffles Paris.
VINCENT LEROUX

Tell me about the history of the property.

Founded by Pierre Bermond and André Jugnot in 1928, Le Royal Monceau—a former retirement home for an order of nuns—immediately became known as a rendezvous of choice for artists and writers, intellectuals, gentlemen, and adventurers. Having hosted the likes of Josephine Baker, Maurice Chevalier, Ernest Hemingway, and Mistinguett in its early years, the hotel entertained General Eisenhower and Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery during World War II and remained a locale of historic

significance, hosting Ho Chi Minh for seven weeks during the Fontainebleau Conference in 1947 and David Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir as they signed the birth certificate of the State of Israel on the hotel premises in 1948. Prestigious guests came, returned, and met up including Joseph Kessel, Walt Disney, the Maharajahs of Indore and Kashmir, King Farouk of Egypt, the Aga Khan, Coco Chanel. In their footsteps would later come Madonna, Robert De Niro, Lou Reed, Sofia Coppola, among others. In 2008, the hotel closed for a two-year extensive renovation work. A mythical Demolition Party, organized to celebrate the beginning of construction work, was the quintessential post-modern soirée. Guests were handed workmen's suits, mallets, and hard hats then let loose toward the transformation of this legendary Palace hotel into a modern and spirited space. Le Royal Monceau – Raffles Paris reopened its doors in 2010 as new generation Palace after a dramatic and complete two-year transformation by designer [Philippe Starck](#).



An overhead view of Le Royal Monceau - Raffles Paris.

ROMEO BALANCOURT

What is one feature of the hotel that you think first-time visitors will find surprising?

Without a doubt, the hotel's state-of-the-art 99-seat Katara Cinema offers a unique cinematic experience for all guests. Every month, the cinema offers film screenings centered around timely new releases and themes. For those seeking a more intimate setting, the space can be reserved for private screenings. Whether it's a romantic date, a special celebration, or a personal gathering, the cinema provides the ideal ambiance for such occasions. The luxurious Clarins & myBlend Spa is a white paradise of relaxation and pampering. At the center of the spa is an eye catching 23-meter swimming pool bathed in natural light. The bespoke facial treatments, exclusively available at Le Royal Monceau – Raffles Paris are 'can't miss' and begin with an in-depth skin analysis followed by a personalized treatment.

To say that there's tough competition on the fine dining front in Paris is an understatement. What's unique about the food program at Le Royal Monceau?

Le Royal Monceau - Raffles Paris offers a wide range of culinary concepts. From Italian gourmet cuisine at Michelin-starred Il Carpaccio restaurant in collaboration with Da Vittorio, and Peruvian-Japanese dishes at Matsuhisa Paris by the legendary Chef Nobu (the first outpost in France), to decadent authentic Parisian breakfasts and brunches at La Cuisine, and the sophisticated ambiance of the recently reimagined Le Bar Long, which transforms from a chic brasserie during the day to a trendy bar at night. On a warm summer night, guests are invited to spend on the Terrace – a leafy haven away from the hustle and bustle of the chic Avenue Hoche.



An overhead view of Le Royal Monceau - Raffles Paris.
ROMEO BALANCOURT

What sights, shops, and restaurants near Le Royal Monceau should visitors check out this year?

A must-see when traveling to Paris, the renowned and iconic Champs-Élysées is located just a few steps from the hotel, offering a selection of chic boutiques and lush gardens for travelers to explore. Adjacent to our Palace, the beautiful Parc Monceau offers the ideal setting for a morning run, a lovely picnic, or a leisurely stroll. In the upcoming fall months, our Art Concierge Julie Eugène recommends the following exhibitions: Mike Kelley at Pinault collection - Bourse de Commerce (on view from October, 2023 through February, 2024); Mark Rothko at the Louis Vuitton Foundation (October, 2023 - April, 2024); and Iris van Herpen at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs (November, 2023 - April, 2024).

A view of the spa, and pool, at Le Royal Monceau - Raffles Paris.
COURTESY OF LE ROYAL MONCEAU - RAFFLES PARIS

What's in store for the rest of 2023 and 2024?

Le Royal Monceau – Raffles Paris team is creating several new guest experiences to be introduced this fall, such as the upcoming winter festive

season celebrations. Prepare to be captivated by the shimmering Christmas lights, enchanting decorations, decadent Yule Logs, and an exquisite seasonal menu. For younger guests, new offerings will include cooking classes, picnics in the park, private visits to the museum and other artistic experiences, including music lessons.