

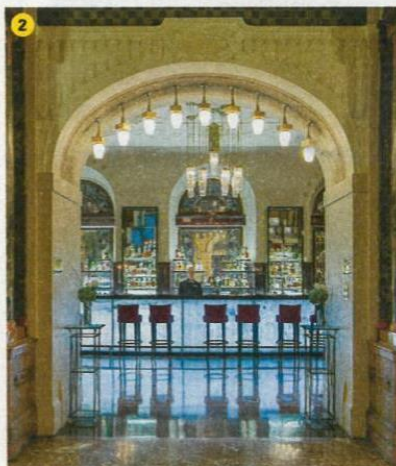


Francesca Syz

**LE PAVILLON DES LETTRES, PARIS**

If you're mad about Baudelaire, next time you're in Paris you can stay in a room dedicated to him. At Le Pavillon des Lettres, each of the 26 bedrooms are themed around a different writer, from Hans Christian Andersen to Emile Zola. Ours, a fourth floor superior room with a sweet little balcony overlooking the Eiffel Tower, is an ode to Diderot. Tucked away just behind the Rue du Faubourg St Honoré, this chic cake-slice-shaped hotel is one of three within a small, family-run group.

The offering is slick but simple: a B&B with a faint air of decadence, with plushly furnished, dusky coloured bedrooms, each stencilled with quotes from its writer and stocked with copies of their books. Then there's a buffet offering a delicious continental breakfast – the freshest croissants, exquisite pastries and great coffee – served in the ground floor salon, with tables that



spill out on to the street during the summer months, an honesty bar for late-night drinks and a little library, with a roaring fire in winter. The most atmospheric rooms are the two top-floor junior suites under the eaves, with their stunning rooftop views. While you're just a short walk from the Champs-Élysées, the Jardin des Tuileries and Le Louvre, you also can borrow bikes from the hotel and explore further afield. It's a 20-minute cycle across the river to Shakespeare & Company, one of the best bookshops in Europe, and then you can drop into the lovely nearby restaurant Bonvivant for lunch.

**PERA PALACE HOTEL JUMEIRAH, ISTANBUL**

Whether or not Agatha Christie actually wrote *Murder on the Orient Express* while staying at the Pera Palace (which many claim she did), she certainly drew inspiration from it. If you're a serious fan, you can book her favourite room (411), which comes with a replica of her typewriter on the desk. The hotel's European-Turkish restaurant is also named Agatha. The hotel, which was also popular with Ernest Hemingway and Alfred Hitchcock, and celebrates its 125th birthday this year, sits in the cosmopolitan Beyoğlu district on Istanbul's European side and has managed to combine 19th-century charm with contemporary additions, such as a spa.

# Fully booked

Find inspiration at three hotels with strong literary connections. If it's good enough for Dostoevsky...



**BELMOND GRAND HOTEL EUROPE, ST PETERSBURG**

Those familiar with Dostoevsky will know that both the author and many of his characters lived in corner rooms, so they could fully observe life on the street outside. Dostoevsky was a regular guest at this hotel and his favourite room, now named after him, is of course a corner suite. Fashioned in 1875 from three private houses given one classical façade, it became the grand hotel that stands here today. Its Tsar-inspired restaurant L'Europe was the first in St Petersburg to have electric lights and is still famous for its stained-glass mural of Apollo, private alcoves and, in particular, for its beef stroganoff, still faithfully prepared to the original recipe.

- 1. Le Pavillon des Lettres, Paris**  
Doubles from £165 (pavillondeslettres.com). Eurostar operates up to 21 services from London to Paris daily from £58 return (eurostar.com).
- 2. Pera Palace Hotel Jumeirah, Istanbul**  
Doubles from £105 (jumeirah.com).
- 3. Belmond Grand Hotel Europe, St Petersburg**  
Doubles from £310 (belmond.com).

**Word art** Each room at Le Pavillon des Lettres is dedicated to a literary great