

Bon Voyage

Notes for the savvy traveler

FRANCE • WINTER 2009-10



Sweet dreams are part of the décor at the new Hôtel Le Petit Paris and revamped Hôtel Sorbonne (inset).

CHIC SLEEPS

• **Hôtel Le Petit Paris**, a new 20-room luxury hotel near the Pantheon, was decorated by Sybille de Margerie, known for her work at the Crillon. Here



she paired delicate silks and velvets with contemporary lighting and custom

furnishings to create memorable rooms inspired by different historical periods; all have flat-screen TVs and free Wi-Fi. €240 to €360, with special offers available online; hotelpetitparis.com.

• **Hôtel Sorbonne** has gotten a major makeover—rooms have been fully renovated with designer fabrics and sumptuous wallpaper and are equipped with new Apple iMacs. The décor references the neighborhood's artistic heritage, with photo exhibitions on each floor and quotes from literary classics woven into the rugs. Includes free Wi-Fi. From €100 to €350, with promotions available online; hotelsorbonne.com.

• The **BLC Design Hotel** is a vision in white, white and more white ("BLC" stands for *blanc*). This sleek new boutique hotel near the Bastille features 29 minimalist rooms with oversized photographs and modern furnishings, flat-screen TVs and Internet connections. The café serves breakfast and, later in the day, a selection of organic wines. From €100; blcdesign-hotel-paris.com.

• **Les Sources de Caudalie's** famous Ile aux Oiseaux suite—a one-bedroom cabin perched on stilts—has received a new look for its 10th anniversary. While the architecture evokes the region's traditional fishing cottages, the interior is spare and modern following a just-unveiled redesign by avant-garde couturier Martin Margiela. €650; sources-caudalie.com.

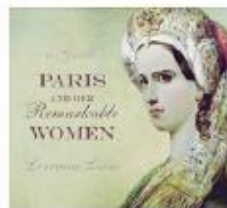
SNOW JOB

Ready to hit the French slopes? Before booking your ski vacation, visit EuropeMountains.com. This useful Web site includes country-specific pages featuring hotels, maps, ski rental information and advice on choosing destinations that cater to families, the young and trendy, beginners—even non-skiers in need of alternative activities. Snow reports and listings of current resort deals make it the perfect jumping-off point for a last-minute trip to the Alps. europe-mountains.com



GUIDES

• **Paris and Her Remarkable Women** by Lorraine Liscio. Each of the chapters in this attractive little volume is devoted to an exceptional Parisienne, beginning with Geneviève—the city's patron saint—and ending with Simone de Beauvoir. All include biographical information and a list of sites to visit. *The Little Bookroom*; \$19.95.



• **Paris Movie Walks** by Michael Schürmann. Cinéphiles will appreciate the 10 walking tours in this detailed guide; they cover much of Paris and relate to more than 150 films, from *Amélie* to *Zazie dans le Métro*. An added plus: the author's list of movies to watch before your trip. *The Intrepid Traveler*; \$15.95.

• **In Love in France** by Rhonda Carrier. This new guide showcases hotels, restaurants, gardens, castles and scenic spots sure to make your heart go pitter-patter. For the seriously smitten, there's a chapter on getting married in France. *Rizzoli*; \$24.95.

