Paris isn’t just the capital city of France, it’s also the beating heart and soul of Europe. Steeped in history, culture, fine food and fashion, Paris is the playground of starry-eyed lovers who come to express their undying affection and indulge their senses more deeply than ever before. Here’s a sensory guide to the honeymoon hot spot…

See

Spectacular landmarks occupy every street corner. Check out the Eiffel Tower, open until midnight (tour-eiffel.fr); walk under Napoleon Bonaparte’s symbol of victory, the Arc de Triomphe (arc-de-triompheparis.com); climb the towers of the gothic cathedral Notre Dame (notre-damedeparis.fr), which is immortalised in Victor Hugo’s novel *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*; and leave a padlock on one of the lovers’ bridges along the River Seine. Then kick back at the Moulin Rouge (moulinrouge.fr), where showgirls make eyes pop with the can-can.

Get arty at some of the most famous museums in the world such as the Louvre (louvre.fr), which showcases Da Vinci’s *Mona Lisa*, Greek goddess sculpture *Venus de Milo*, and Napoleon’s original apartments. Be transfixed by the glorious statues *The Kiss* and *The Thinker* at the Rodin Museum (musee-rodin.fr). And for contemporary work, the Centre Pompidou is a must (centrepompidou.fr).

Of course, no trip to Paris is complete without a stroll down the chic Avenue des Champs-Élysées to shop for everything from Louis Vuitton bags to Ladurée macarons and Mercedes!

Taste

Delectable treats await you at each bend. Bakeries open their oven doors before your eyes with warm baguettes and croissants tumbling out for breakfast. Indulge in irresistible macarons in dozens of flavours — you can’t go past the posh Pierre Hermé boutiques (pierreherme.com). And while you’re sating your sweet tooth, grab a table for two at the Angelina tearoom near the Louvre (angelina-paris.fr). For a really divine meal out, hit up l’Atelier de Joël Robuchon (joel-robuchon.net), currently ranked the 12th best restaurant in the world, for traditional offerings from foie gras to French Champagne!

Smell

Fragrance is one of the strongest links to memory — you just have to sniff a drop of Chanel No. 5 to be transported back to that magical moment you had while wearing it. And Paris is full of scented delights to make new memories with. Take a stroll through one of the perfectly landscaped gardens for a floral scent-sation. Top of the list are the Jardin des Tuileries and Jardin du Luxembourg. And you can’t go past the flower shop window displays without having a sniff. Take a peek at vibrant florist Varda (varda.fr), or swoon through the Marché aux Fleurs (flower market) on the Île de la Cité near Notre Dame.

Hear

French history is fascinating even to the most defiant scholar. Almost every building in town has a secret to tell of heroes and revolutionaries. Who could resist listening to tales of Napoleon’s battles at the Musée de l’Armée (invalides.org) or going back in time at La Conciergerie prison (conciergerie.monuments-nationaux.fr) to hear the story of Marie Antoinette’s final days before getting the chop? You can also listen to the sweet sounds of music at the ornate Palais Garnier (operadeparis.fr), musicians busking on street corners, the roaring crowds at Le Lido cabaret (lido.fr) and church bells everywhere.

Touch

Aside from basking in the bliss of kissing and holding hands with your hubby as you stroll through the ville, there are many other textural experiences beckoning. Feel the plush velvet curtains in your Parisian hotel room (see p.248), silky scarves at Hermès (hermes.com), Chantilly laces in the tiny fabric shops in the Montmartre district, the breeze on your face as you cruise the River Seine on a boat, or the cold flagstones of the ancient Les Catacombes (catacombes-de-paris.fr).

"Travelling in our wedding outfits was a great idea — until the airline lost our luggage!"

"Paris is the playground of lovers who come to indulge their senses"

"Paris is the most romantic city on earth. Ooh la la!"
**SAINT JAMES PARIS**

**LOCALE** Situated in Paris’ upscale 16th district, Saint James Paris is within walking distance of designer shopping strips Avenue Victor Hugo and Avenue des Champs-Élysées, and landmarks such as the Arc de Triomphe and Eiffel Tower.

**THE VIBE** Eccentric and extravagant. This chateau-hotel masterpiece was built in 1892 on an airfield. It was first established as The Thiers Foundation by first lady Madame Dosne-Thiers in memory of her late husband, President Adolphe Thiers. The foundation offered talented students scholarships at the creative mansion for decades, with many going on to be politicians, historians and writers, such as Georges Huisman, who created the Festival Huisman, which is currently a history museum.

**SLEEP** Forty-eight rooms and suites are on offer, each with a unique theme. The Love Pavilion hotel suite has a private spa with its own steam room, double tub and two massage tables!

**EAT** The restaurant serves seasonal cuisine including dishes such as quail stuffed with foie gras, garden peas and wild mushrooms, served with verbena-mint jus. The Library Bar retains its historic quirk with 12,000 books on display, and you’ll feel as if you’ve stepped back in time enjoying an alfresco menu on the terrace styled in homage to the history of the chateau.

**RELAX** If burning off those croissants on a stationary bike or pumping weights in the chandelier-embellished Exercise Room sounds too strenuous for your honeymoon, book in for a luxurious massage session at the Spa, with rich orange and vanilla fragrances at Spa Germology, which is exclusive to the hotel’s club members and guests.

**CHECK IN** Room rates start at $399*; see saint-james-paris.com.

---

**HÔTEL DANIEL**

**LOCALE** In the heart of the very elegant 16th district, Hôtel Daniel is centrally located just two blocks from the Avenue des Champs-Élysées and chic Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré. It’s surrounded by antique and fashion boutiques and world-class restaurants.

**THE VIBE** Warm, friendly, sophisticated. The epitome of French chic, the hotel oozes romance and charm. Built in 1870 (and renovated for the hotel opening in 2004), it retains all the charms of the local Haussmannian architectural manner. It’s so beautifully furnished in 18th century, chinoiserie-style, you’ll feel as if you’ve stepped into another world. In the lobby alone, sea-green handmade De Gournay marquises add flair by Ernest Hemsingway will have you rejuvenated.

**SLEEP** Room rates start at $507* per night; see hoteldanielparis.com.

**EAT** The restaurant serves seasonal cuisine including dishes such as quail stuffed with foie gras, garden peas and wild mushrooms, served with verbena-mint jus. The Library Bar retains its historic quirk with 12,000 books on display, and you’ll feel as if you’ve stepped back in time enjoying an alfresco menu on the terrace styled in homage to the history of the chateau.

**RELAX** If burning off those croissants on a stationary bike or pumping weights in the chandelier-embellished Exercise Room sounds too strenuous for your honeymoon, book in for a luxurious massage session at the Spa, with rich orange and vanilla fragrances at Spa Germology, which is exclusive to the hotel’s club members and guests.

**CHECK IN** Room rates start at $399*; see saint-james-paris.com.

---

**MANDARIN ORIENTAL, PARIS**

**LOCAL** With one of the city’s most stylish addresses, the Mandarin Oriental is in the heart of the luxury brand district surrounded by the likes of Chanel, Chloé, Miu Miu and Gucci. It’s less than a 10-minute walk to the Opera Quarter, where the golden Palais Garnier (opera house) and shopping department-store Mecca the Galeries Lafayette await.

**THE VIBE** The Mandarin Oriental is five-star with its service. It has all the benefits of a large hotel – 24-hour room service, a pool, spa, multiple eateries with extensive menu selections – but feels remarkably intimate and private. Ask the concierge to help you plan your trip and book event and museum tickets.

**SLEEP** There are 99 rooms and 39 suites, many of which have their own unique design elements, ranging from Art Deco-style chandeliers to Oriental flourishes. They all contain the mod cons (TV, Wi-Fi, separate bathroom). The views range from garden courtyards and stylish street outlooks to breathtaking glimpses of the Eiffel Tower (ask for the Cabochons or Atelier Suites).

**EAT** The restaurant serves seasonal cuisine including dishes such as quail stuffed with foie gras, garden peas and wild mushrooms, served with verbena-mint jus. The Library Bar retains its historic quirk with 12,000 books on display, and you’ll feel as if you’ve stepped back in time enjoying an alfresco menu on the terrace styled in homage to the history of the chateau.

**RELAX** If burning off those croissants on a stationary bike or pumping weights in the chandelier-embellished Exercise Room sounds too strenuous for your honeymoon, book in for a luxurious massage session at the Spa, with rich orange and vanilla fragrances at Spa Germology, which is exclusive to the hotel’s club members and guests.

**CHECK IN** Room rates start at $960*; see mandarinoriental.com/paris.