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Is this the sweetest hotel in Paris?

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In possession of a sweet tooth? The world's first gourmet hotel is aimed squarely at you.



Lovers of *macaron* and *madeleines* have long sought out **Fauchon** (<https://www.fauchon.com/>) on the Place de la Madeleine in **Paris** (<https://www.vogue.com.au/travel/hotels/this-boutique-hotel-in-paris-is-a-fashion-industry-favourite/image-gallery/faf1de742de711fd2ab35995d1f78b5d>) for gourmet treats. It was established way back in 1886 but in recent years the redesigned hot pink, black and white Fauchon packages have represented the ultimate chic in portable food.



Now, the company has opened the world's first gourmet hotel, **Fauchon L'Hotel** (<https://www.hotel-fauchon-paris.fr/>), a macaroon's throw from the original store. Affiliated with **Leading Hotels of the World** (<https://www.lhw.com/>), it's the first of 20 five-star Fauchon hotels to be rolled out in the next 10 years. Is the world ready for all this indulgence?



The first thing you should know is that the notoriously cantankerous **Paris** (<https://www.vogue.com.au/travel/hotels/luxe-hotel-tour-a-plush-boutique-stay-in-heart-of-paris/image-gallery/67073bod6ad7e2de0ab726203efa745f>) taxi drivers might think the hotel is part of the Fauchon concept store rather than the hotel, which is a block or two away on the corner of Boulevard Malesherbes. Mine impatiently tried to drop me at the shop until I spotted the hotel's awning in the distance and demanded in shaky French that he take me there. The entrance is quite discreet, so do make sure your driver is clear about where you're going.



On arrival, I'm shown to a sexy black-painted salon for check in. It's highlighted in Fauchon pinks - velvet deco chairs, strawberry and lime welcome drink, and pink, chocolate and violet macaroons in a glass bell jar. This will be far from the last macaroon I'll encounter during my stay.



The hotel's philosophy is all about indulgence of the senses through food, comfort and design. The motto is GLAM – that is, G(gourmet) L (location) A (arty experiences) Mesdames (female focused). It certainly feels very feminine, with its velvety pink furnishings, feminine amenities, such as a pink Dyson hairdryer and **Carita (<https://carita.com/>)** products in the bathrooms, and logo of winking eyes, which are embroidered on the duvets and *ne pas deranger* privacy signs.



The first real clue to the sweet decadence that awaits is the graphic black, white and hot pink carpets in the hallway. It's like a trail of liquorice allsorts leading me to my room. I'm in suite 505, a light and airy configuration of three rooms, which overlook the boulevard through four sets of French windows. The building façade is historic 19th Century Haussmann, with bold interiors by Affine designer Richard Martinet.



The suite is large but unusually designed. The master bedroom, dressing room and ensuite (shower only) are at one end, the powder room with Japanese toilet at the other, joined by a long sitting room furnished with a ruby velvet sofa and two baby pink velvet tub chairs. Black hardwood floors are covered with rugs in geometric shapes of pink, teal, black and cream, with a small black desk, a nest of tables and a flatscreen TV as a wall feature. I was able to access my Netflix directly, with a little help from a technician.



What is unique to this hotel, and perhaps its most decadent feature, is the baby pink lacquer Gourmet Bar in each room. It's a kind of maximum-sized mini bar on acid, filled with Fauchon treats, all complimentary. If you do manage to work your way through the jars of *foie gras*, tapenade, savoury biscuits, nuts, chocolates, madeleines and rose champagne, it will be refilled daily until you leave or explode, whichever comes first. Just in case you're hungry there's a Fauchon tea coffret on the nest of tables, along with a selection of macarons.



There's really no avoiding those macaroons. At breakfast, in Le Grand Café, which has an outdoor terrace in the boulevard, I work my way through the fruit, cereal and pastries (croissants eaten in Paris don't have calories) and ask for a coffee, which is delivered with, of course, a macaroon. Crepes, waffles, and *pain perdu* fill out the breakfast menu along with eggs, cheese and charcuterie. On my second day I try the well-being option with smoothies and egg white omelettes, but all good intentions are thrown to the wind when the waiter offers me the madeleine of the day, a gooey chocolate confection stuffed with praline. In my notebook I write, 'Stop it!'



If your sugar levels drop in the afternoon, there's a formal tea of dainty tarts that includes a wide selection of Fauchon teas, served in a spacious tea room with warmly illuminated walls. I was expecting a room that was hot pink with ribbons, but it was rather austere. 'Glam'Hours' cocktails are served in the café, followed by dinner.



The dinner menu is divided into categories – Vegetables, The Sea, The Land – offering tasting-size or main plates of dishes such as creamy artichokes in pie, scallops carpaccio or roasted wood pigeon with *ceps*. I have to admit that one night I ignored this tasty fare and went to my suite and ate my way through my Gourmet Bar instead.



Penance can be paid in the small gym or a training run with the jogging coach. There's also an intimate Carita spa with pink mirrored walls, flickering candles, and pink rose petals strewn about. My massage therapist offers me a choice of fragrant oils, which I find a little sickly sweet - like macarons. After the treatment I'm plied with Fauchon tea, macarons and madeleines once more.



Fauchon L'Hotel has been designed with wit and the staff are charming. For shopping, it's extremely well located near the department stores of the Grands Boulevards and the Faubourg Saint-Honoré. The hotel is a novelty but it's a clever extension of the brand and the snazzy décor is eminently Instagrammable, if that's your thing. Although it feels very feminine and fashion-focused, the management tells me that men like it too.



I have a sweet tooth and spent most of my stay in a sugar coma, but the concept will not appeal to everyone. Reservations should come with a warning for your waistline.

Visit: [hotel-fauchon-paris.fr](https://www.hotel-fauchon-paris.fr/) (<https://www.hotel-fauchon-paris.fr/>)

The writer travelled in comfort with [Cathay Pacific](https://www.cathaypacific.com/cx/en_AU.html) (https://www.cathaypacific.com/cx/en_AU.html), via that other great gourmet city, [Hong Kong](https://www.vogue.com.au/travel/destinations/how-to-spend-48-hours-in-hong-kong/image-gallery/10cf512eb134f72b8250f624f352166d) (<https://www.vogue.com.au/travel/destinations/how-to-spend-48-hours-in-hong-kong/image-gallery/10cf512eb134f72b8250f624f352166d>).

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