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## Hôtel Les Bains

How do you revitalize a place that was a legendary 1980s and '90s Marais nightclub—and before that, a public bathhouse opened in 1895 where Les Halles market workers mixed with the intellectuals of the day—into an upmarket hotel that stays true to its essence? For its owner, the film producer Jean-Pierre Marois, the answer was to make it comfortable, keep some of the nighttime spirit, and add the slightly schizophrenic input of two very different interior designers: Denis Montel for the downstairs bar and restaurant, and Tristan Auer, a favorite among the stars (see: Mick Jagger's château), for the rooms. Key elements from the past were also preserved: reception desk for the concierge, chinoiserie lounge, and black-and-white mosaic floor from the early Philippe Starck design in the club and its scandalous basement mini-pool. Tucked inside architect Vincent Bastie's impeccable Haussmannian facade, the 39 rooms and suites lead off wide landings with art displays and carpet modeled on singer Serge Gainsbourg's Paris flat; those at the rear have wooden-decked balconies. Highlights of the surprisingly understated

look include rust-colored corner banquettes and burnt orange Warhol-inspired sofas. Public spaces take guests on a journey across the mood spectrum. The low-lit restaurant, with a centerpiece U-shaped bar, undulating red lacquered ceiling, and dramatically layered felt wall installation, divides opinions amongst the locals, but is popular with the fashion coterie (Givenchy and Dior have hosted Fashion Week parties there). The subterranean boîte, with its checkerboard floor and mosaic-tiled walls, has regained its buzz. Across the street, a light-filled gallery-boutique stocks limited-edition pieces handpicked by Thomas Erber of local favorite Cabinet of Curiosities and hosts temporary installations. 7 Rue du Bourg l'Abbé; lesbains-paris.com

(FROM TOP) The restaurant at Hôtel Les Bains. Inside a suite at Les Bains. (OPPOSITE FROM TOP) A guest room at Hôtel Le Roch (2).

