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19 Jun 2018

Inside Les Roches Blanches, the Art Deco beauty on the French Riviera - in pictures











Say hello to this sexy new starlet on the French Riviera – Les Roches Blanches. The hotel has just completed a top-to-toe renovation. It is named after the limestone rocks which line the coast between the glamorous fishing village of Cassis and gritty-yet-cultural Marseille. Inside, it's the height of French sophistication with décort that hints at its Art Deco heritage.

By Lizzie Frainier

 $\bullet \underline{ \ The \ best \ hotels \ on \ the \ C\^{o}te \ d'Azur \ (\ https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/france/cote-d-azur/hotels/hel$

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The property started out life as a private mansion at the end of the 19th century, before being turned into a hotel in the early 1920s. Today, architectural firm Monika Kappel has incorporated some of the Art Deco elements into its design. There are coffered ceilings, chrome wall lights, a black granite floor with brass flecks and lots of velvet. The scale pattern of the original wrought-iron banister also now decorates the two bars.

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The Art Deco theme continues into the rooms with tall headboards of brass and black lacquer geometric panels, velvet cushions and period armchairs. The renovation has also increased the number of rooms and suites from 24 to 36 (by using the house that was formerly used for staff).

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Another big draw of the renovation is the fact that it has made the outdoors a bigger part of the design. Windows and patio doors have been enlarged to maximise the panoramic views of the seas, new terraces have been created, and the once-unused rooftops have been made accessible.

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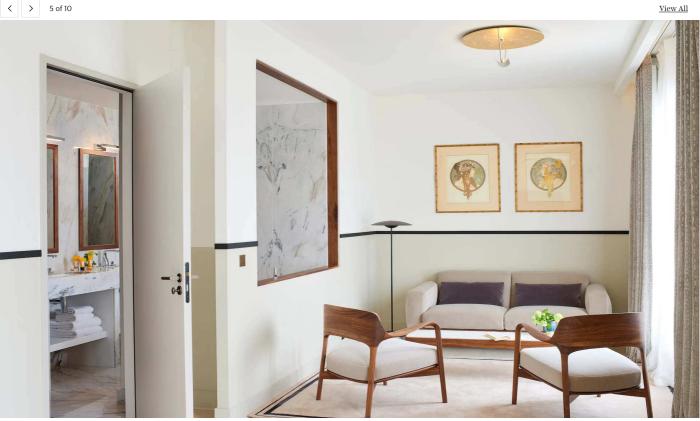
Inside Les Roches Blanches, the Art Deco beauty on the French Riviera - in pictures











Perhaps the most famous guests to have bedded down here are Winston Churchill and Edith Piaf. Two suites are named in their honour, and they come with huge outdoor terraces with pretty views of Cap Canaille cliff. Bathrooms (both in the suites and the rooms) are decked out in white marble or limestone and black granite, and include lovely Acqua di Parma toiletries.

• The best hidden gems on the Cote d'Azur (https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/france/cote-d-azur/articles/best-quieter-resorts-on-the-french-riviera/)

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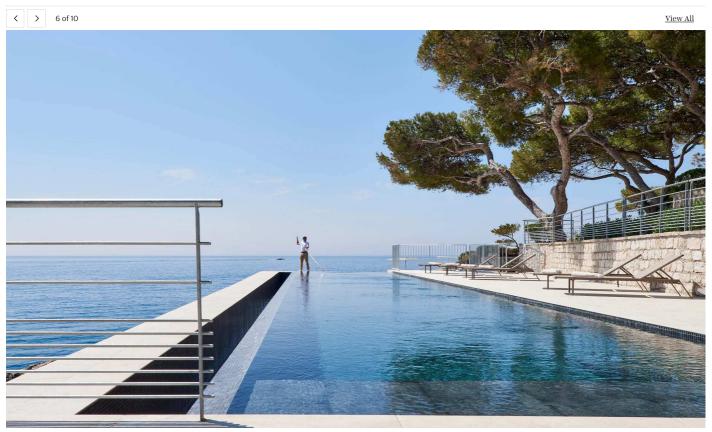
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It would be difficult to tire of the Mediterranean view, considering the rugged beauty of the surrounding cliffs and coastline. Outdoors, there is a garden filled with succulent plants, an original snail-shaped swimming pool, terraces for lunching on, and a second pool – this time an infinity version with vistas of boats pulling in and out of the port. Those that prefer a dip in the sea can use the staircase hollowed into the rock for direct access.

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Chef Jean-Paul Cudennec, who previously won a Michelin star at Kasteel Withof in Belgium, is at the helm of the colourful and bright restaurant Les Belles Canailles. Cassis has 12 wine estates in the local area, and all feature on the menu. Cheers to that.

 $\bullet \underline{ \ \, The \ best \ hotels \ in \ Marseille \ (\underline{\ https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/france/cote-d-azur/marseille/hotels/h$

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Expect refined Mediterranean cuisine - with a focus on seafood and fish (quelle surprise). Dishes are set to include red mullet with courgette flower, and grilled seabass, $cuttle fish \ ragout, and \ borlotti \ beans. \ The \ Lounge \ Bar \ will \ have \ a slightly \ more \ casual \ menu, \ with \ a \ selection \ of \ tapas \ and \ mezze.$

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Outdoor dining is definitely encouraged on warm evenings. For a really romantic experience, book the table at the bottom of the terrace garden. There won't be anyone else in sight, and you'll eat by candlelight to the sound of the waves.

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Other features include a spa with four treatment rooms and a mosaic-lined steam room and a pointu (a fishing boat typical of this region). There are also plans to have open-air jazz concerts on the restaurant terrace.

 $Rooms\ from\ \&400\ (\&351); \underline{roches-blanches-cassis.com\ (\ https://roches-blanches-cassis.com/)}$

 $\textbf{-} \underline{\textbf{The 50}} \underline{\textbf{best boutique hotels in Europe for summer (https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/articles/best-boutique-hotels-in-europe/arti$