

REST ASSURED:

Paris

A taste for the quirky and unusual? How about a Gothic beauty, a case of haute(l) couture, or a barge on the Seine? Whatever your taste, Nuala Harvey knows your Paris match



£255

Le Bellechasse

'This is art,
dammit.
Baroque and
berserk'

Sleep? Don't expect to – you'll spend the night looking for clues when you hole up in Le Bellechasse, a mere brushstroke away from the Musée d'Orsay. Fantastical collages of louche nudes, men with butterfly wings, pack-of-card knaves, masked ladies, and strange images jostle, nudge and wink for your attention – all sewn together by master couturier Christian Lacroix.

As you'd expect, there's nothing prêt-à-porter about it. All 34 rooms (soundproofed, wi-fi'd and with the obligatory flatscreen TVs) are statements – writ large – clothed in bold colours, some with open bathtubs taking centre stage. Materials collide in a delicious confection of velvet, taffeta, brocade and snakeskin – an invitation to touch, stroke and caress. It's a masterpiece of wit, with a touch of grotesque-verging-on-the-macabre thrown in: a heady concoction not for minimalists (or estate agents).

And light sleepers beware: room decor is challenging rather than soothing, daring your brain to decode obscure meanings, images that mess with your mind (well at least you won't be bored). Your dreams could turn into visions, your nightmares take new turns. This is art, dammit. Baroque and berserk. Just stay off the cheese.

Hôtel Le Bellechasse (00 33 1 45 502231, www.lebellechasse.com) has doubles from £255. B&B.