

Le Bristol

PARIS



AN ODE TO THE FRENCH
ART DE VIVRE

Flammarion



The renowned Italian-born English garden designer Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd reimaged the garden at Le Bristol as a rural retreat in the heart of Paris.

LUXURY, CALM, AND CONTEMPORARY ART

Striving for beauty is also the guiding spirit of the gardeners who maintain the hotel's remarkable 12,900-square-foot (1,200-square-meter) garden. From rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré there is no hint of the verdant courtyard gardens that lie at the heart of Le Bristol, a space that is unique in Paris. A bucolic dream of the Oetker family, the formal garden à la française was originally laid out in the late 1970s when the Residence wing was extended, with its generous suites with terraces overlooking this green sanctuary. The courtyard garden is now structured by new beds, clipped yews, hornbeam hedges, and osmanthus topiary, while the trellis wall has been redesigned to lend the garden a new geometry, both horizontally and vertically. In 2020, this enchanting space was given a makeover, a new and more youthful take on the classic landscape garden, seamlessly blending the symmetry of French formal gardens with the natural informality of the English gardening tradition. The beds spill over with planting that changes with the seasons, with tulips and narcissus in spring followed by bougainvillea, roses, and grasses in summer. There are always flowers for those who want to see them, as Henri Matisse wrote so movingly. At Le Bristol Paris, they are there for everyone to enjoy.

As soon as the good weather arrives, Café Antonia's outdoor seating area, Le Jardin Français, moves into its summer home amid the lush greenery of this secret courtyard. Beneath the shade of spotless white parasols, guests can enjoy a lunchtime salad, or order a gourmet fruit or herbal tea with a pâtisserie of the day at tea time, or a pasta dish from the Pastificio kitchens in the cool of the evening. Hidden away from the tumult of the city, time slips by peacefully here, punctuated by the thoughtful attentions of the maître d'hôtel and the serving staff, and by the equally fascinating and absorbing comings and goings of the gardeners, who are ever generous with their tips for experienced gardeners and novices alike.

