

# ESCAPE



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## Parisian PULSE

Often referred to as Paris's very own Studio 54, *Les Bains* has long been a temple of *design*, *music*, and *artistic daring*.

By PIA BELLO

When François Auguste Guerbais opened Les Bains as Paris's premier private bathhouse in 1885, the rue du Bourg l'Abbé space in the Marais drew writers, artists, and the glitterati of the Belle Époque. Over the century-plus that followed, the Haussmannian building has mirrored the city's cultural evolution—from Marcel Proust soaking in sulfur baths to Prince delivering a legendary impromptu performance. Today, Les Bains is pop culture's quintessential backdrop for Parisian revelry; in the past year alone, it has hosted Kim Petras's "Freak It" music video, as well as a club scene in the fifth season of Netflix's *Emily in Paris*.

Nightlife has long been central to Les Bains's identity. When the space was reborn as the underground nightclub Les Bains Douches in 1978, high-contrast designs by Philippe Starck—such as an iconic black-and-white checkerboard dance floor—gave it a striking graphic identity. More than just a party spot, it became a fashion haunt and creative playground, hosting recording sessions by Joy Division and welcoming luminaries such as David Bowie, Kate Moss, Andy Warhol, and Karl Lagerfeld.

In 2015, filmmaker Jean-Pierre Marois transformed Les Bains into a luxury boutique hotel, preserving the building's cultural DNA while reimagining it for the 21st century. Architect Vincent Bastie and interior designers Tristan Auer and Denis Montel layered marble finishes, mosaic accents, and a rich palette of black, white, and deep red throughout the property, which includes the bar and restaurant Roxo as well as the renovated historic basement-level club. Upstairs, 39 rooms and suites feature custom furnishings, white marble bathrooms, and Warhol Factory-style sofas—subtle nods to the hotel's storied past.

FROM TOP—Exterior of Les Bains Paris; Roxo Bar & Restaurant; Deluxe room  
OPPOSITE PAGE—The hotel's lobby



Photos courtesy of Les Bains