

HOTELS

Paris Opening: Buddha Bar Hotel

By Ken Scrudato, May 23, 2013

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The Buddha says, "Dwell not in the past, but do concentrate the mind on the present moment." But if the past is a foreign country, it is returning now to home's loving embrace. It was but seventeen years ago (1996, to be precise) that the first **Buddha Bar** opened on Paris' rue Boissy d'Anglais--and as its journey since has taken it from Dubai to Dakar, Amsterdam to Evian-les-Bains, the circle is now closed, as the George V Eaterainment Group opens the City of Light's first **Buddha Bar Hotel**. Taking position amongst the swish boutiques along the rue du Faubourg Saint Honore, it arises as a palpable tribute to BB founder and visionary Raymond Visan, who passed on in 2010.

The new hotel is fitted into a stunning 18th Century manse (it's the brand's third lodging after **Prague** and Budapest), and carries on the exotic French-Orientalism that is now so familiar to millions. Rooms have free-standing, dragon-ornamented tubs and are done up in lavish crimson-purple-gold color schemes. Sexy young Senegalese chef Rougui Dia (formerly of **Petrossian**) presents her uniquely intercontinental cuisine at the hotel's gilded Le Vraymonde restaurant, whose series of rooms all look out onto a serene garden courtyard. Le QU4TRE lounge, meanwhile, is sure to be 2013's new fashionista magnet. There's also a B/ATTITUDE spa and Buddha Bar boutique. Buddha says "It is better to travel well than to arrive." Now we're not so sure.

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