



Bonjour Paris
28 Juin 2013
61 Paris Nation Hotel

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Two New Paris Hotels June 2013

By [Paige Donner](#)



With The Ritz and Le Crillon both shuttering their doors in the past year for renovations, the realization that there could be a resulting dearth of hotel rooms in the City of Lights might cross a traveler's mind.

But it seems that the more entrepreneurial boutique hoteliers of the city have taken these recent developments as a cue that there's added incentive to open new [design hotels](#) in innovative parts of the city. Elegancia Hotels Group and a new Best Western Premier, part of the Paris Inn Group, have done just that.

Frequent travelers to Paris may be intrigued to try out the new tramway (T3b) that runs the periphery direction south departing from Porte de Vincennes, skirting past Bois de Vincennes, Porte d'Italie and then halting just past one of its last stops which is the Porte de Versailles where any number of the city's large-scale expos take place, such as Salon du Chocolat and Paris Marathon Runners' Expo.

The Best Western Premier **61 Paris Nation Hotel** is located at 61, rue de la Voûte and is just 3 minutes walking from Porte de Vincennes, the end line of this new tramway - as well as Metro Line 1. Its complete and total renovation has incorporated into it all things "60's."

Spearheaded by the architectural firm Axel Schoenert Architectes Associés, this newly retro-chicified 4-star hotel has 48 rooms, one equipped for limited mobility, a bright, welcoming lobby, a breakfast room looking out onto the atrium and a sitting lounge adjacent to the lobby.



Theme behind the iconic Brigitte Bardot, Serge Gainsbourg and other 60's era photos is "Happy '61." The sleek color-scheme of saffron yellow, emerald green, storm grey, azure blue and orange paradise are offset with noble-wood furniture and paneling. For example, glass-shower stalls' interior paneling is all wood (or *faux* wood veneer

to be precise) and a Business Class room is equipped with a single-serving-size fold up wooden table conveniently placed just in front of the sitting chair which folds down against the wall for more spaciousness, or up for ease of in-room, pre-dinner *aperitif* while watching CNN, BBC, France2 news...or a past episode of MadMen on the flatscreen TV.

This limited edition "Happy '61" furniture line, specially conceived of for le Best Western Premier 61 Paris Nation Hotel, was first presented last year at "Now! leOff 2012" which took place during Paris Design Week at the very trendy Cité de la Mode et du Design. Each of the hotel rooms has either the saffron yellow or azure blue motif along with the in-room amenities of coffee service, mini bar, hair dryer, flat screen tv with international channels - WiFi is complimentary. The one person/one suitcase sized elevator that services the 5 floor boutique hotel is worth the wait, at least when going up.

Things to do around this corner of Paris: Walk to Bois de Vincennes and watch the families rowing the little boats around the lake; visit Père-Lachaise cemetery (most visited Paris monument after the Eiffel Tower); walk the two blocks to where you can pick up the Promenade Plantée, a delightful pedestrian and bike path that goes all the way to Bastille and is all tree-lined and garden-filled; take the tram to Porte de Versailles just for the fun of window-sightseeing for the cost of a Metro ticket (€1.80); or trek on over to the Cinémathèque Française at the nearby Bercy Village where you'll also find a selection of shops and choice of restaurants. And since the hotel has only recently opened, officially May 2013, it's worth your time to call and/or check online to see if they are offering any specials during your dates of travel.

Best Western Premier 61 Paris Nation Hotel

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