

TRAVELER

A woman wearing a black dress and a large, wide-brimmed white hat is sitting on a white, low-profile bed. The bed is positioned in a room with intricate architectural details, including a large, ornate archway above the bed and a hanging lantern. The room is decorated with colorful mosaic tiles and gold accents. In the foreground, a blue pool of water reflects the scene. The overall atmosphere is one of luxury and elegance.

TRAVEL 2019



europa

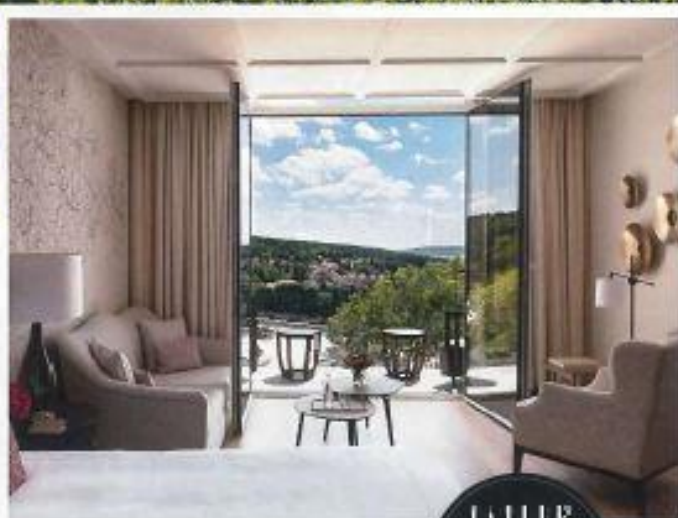
Exclusive, eclectic and deeply glamorous

ROYAL CHAMPAGNE HOTEL & SPA

Champillon, France

Finally Champagne has a hotel as instantly seductive, golden-hued and effervescent as our favourite tipple. As Marlene Dietrich said, 'Champagne makes you feel like it's Sunday and better days are just around the corner.' Indeed they are, now that this 19th-century coaching inn, set in the hills just outside Epernay and long a resting place for French aristocrats, has been swept up into the first contemporary five-star in the region. Designed by Reims based archi-

tect Giovanni Pace, this is a 21st-century take on an amphitheatre, crafted from local quartz and glass. Interiors fizz: illuminated glass bubbles float above restaurant tables; more bubbles dance across golden wallpaper in the heavenly spa, where the 25m indoor pool glints and Biologique Recherche treatments work their magic. Beyond lies an outdoor infinity pool that gazes down onto the valley where Dom Perignon lies buried. Rooms are sophisticated and calm,



TATLER
AWARD-WINNER
Best
location

with the branches and flowers of grapevines etched onto the walls, and sleek bathrooms with free-standing baths, vast showers, lime stone basins and Hermès soap. And then to the cellar, where there are 200 varieties of champagne, paired by award-winning chef Jean-Denis Rieubland with dishes that dazzle under a ceiling of gold leaf. A dollop of caviar here, a roasted langoustine there, turbot with artichoke, sweetbreads and a fricassee of grolles. Everything feels exclusive, intimate – in fact, you will feel a strong desire to kick off your heels and call for a glass of champagne. *Double, from £425, including breakfast (royalchampagne.com; +33 3 26 52 87 11).*

