

A PLACE TO STAY

Hotel l'Elysée Val d'Europe, France

**WHY?**

Disneyland Paris's 30th anniversary celebrations draw to a close this summer, with a programme of commemorative shows day and night.

When Europe's first Disney theme park opened in 1992, it was part of

a wider project that included the development of a new town, Val d'Europe, which took architectural inspiration from Baron Haussmann's renewal of 19th-century Paris. The Hotel L'Elysée Val d'Europe opened a decade later, with quintessentially

Parisian design – elegant stone facades and wrought-iron details that are less Magic Kingdom, more Grands Boulevards.

No longer a Disney hotel, it is still affiliated with the park but offers an economical and inherently French base from which to do Disney.

LOCATION

In Serris, one of Val d'Europe's five communities and moments from Val d'Europe train station, where RER trains from Paris Châtelet-Les Halles arrive en route to Disney's Marne-la-Vallée-Chessy terminus, a two-minute ride away (however, the hotel provides a free, regular shuttle to the park, which takes 10 minutes).

It is also on the doorstep of the vast Val d'Europe mall, but you'd never know – it's hidden in plain sight, the most obvious feature of the community being its breezy elegance. Trees, gardens and lakes are omnipresent.

AMBIENCE

Despite being slightly set away from the park, almost all the guests are here for one reason. However, this is a place to come and relax, catch your breath and enjoy French cuisine away from the mania of the Mouse.

ACCOMMODATION

There are 152 rooms, a large number of which sleep four, and connecting rooms that sleep up to eight. The décor is functionally smart.



There are five rooms adapted for wheelchair use, magnetic loop reception desks and Braille in the lifts.

FOOD AND DRINK

The breakfast buffet is good quality, with child-pleasing pancakes and waffles alongside cereals, croissants and moreish bread.

Le George restaurant is considerably better value than many of the pricey Disney eateries, with a two-course menu for children – offering smaller-sized à la carte portions of dishes such as entrecôte with chips or grilled salmon with sorrel and summer vegetables – costing €10 (£8.60), and €24 (£21) for adults.

You can also eat at one of the many nearby restaurants (Korean, Mediterranean street food, pizza, tapas, plus the usual smattering of brasseries), and pack a picnic at the Monop' or Carrefour supermarkets nearby.

WHAT TO DO

Naturally, Disneyland. But there is also shopping (the mall has an aquarium alongside brands from Adidas to Zara) and Serris hosts a free, outdoor cinema in summer.

While you can walk to the parks in 30 minutes, save your energy by jumping on the shuttle to Walt Disney Studios Park. Here, you will find the new Marvel Avengers Campus with its Spider-Man Web Adventure ride and 57mph Avengers Assemble Flight Force roller coaster, alongside Pixar-themed attractions.

In the main Disneyland Park, the 30th anniversary daytime and after-dark shows and parades conclude on 30 September. It's a Small World reopened after renovation in May and the Mysteries of the Nautilus submarine will reopen this summer.

Two-day passes cost from £64.50, disneylandparis.com.

WORTH WRITING HOME ABOUT

This is a cost-effective way to visit Disneyland Paris, with the bonus of feeling like you're actually in France. We packed a bag with fruit, croissants and drinks from the supermarket that kept us going until dinner.

TO BOOK

Hotel L'Elysée Val d'Europe, Serris, Île de France. Doubles from €105 (£91), rooms for four from €125 (£108), hoteleysee.com.

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