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All hotels have been independently reviewed by our expert writers, who are usually hosted on a complimentary basis. We will earn a commission if you book via the links below, but this never affects our rating.

Domaine Les Crayeres
Reims, Champagne, France

View on a map



9/10

Telegraph expert rating

"Possibly the château of your wildest French dreams. Les Crayères is a class act from start to finish. Walk in manicured grounds, book Champagne cellar tours and tastings, dine in two-Michelin-starred finery, and drink deep of the regal ambience of this hyper-luxe Reims retreat."

Check availability

Rooms from
£471 per night

CHECK-IN
Tue 18 Mar v

CHECK-OUT
Thu 20 Mar v

OCCUPANCY
1 room, 2 adults, 0 children v

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com

Telegraph Review



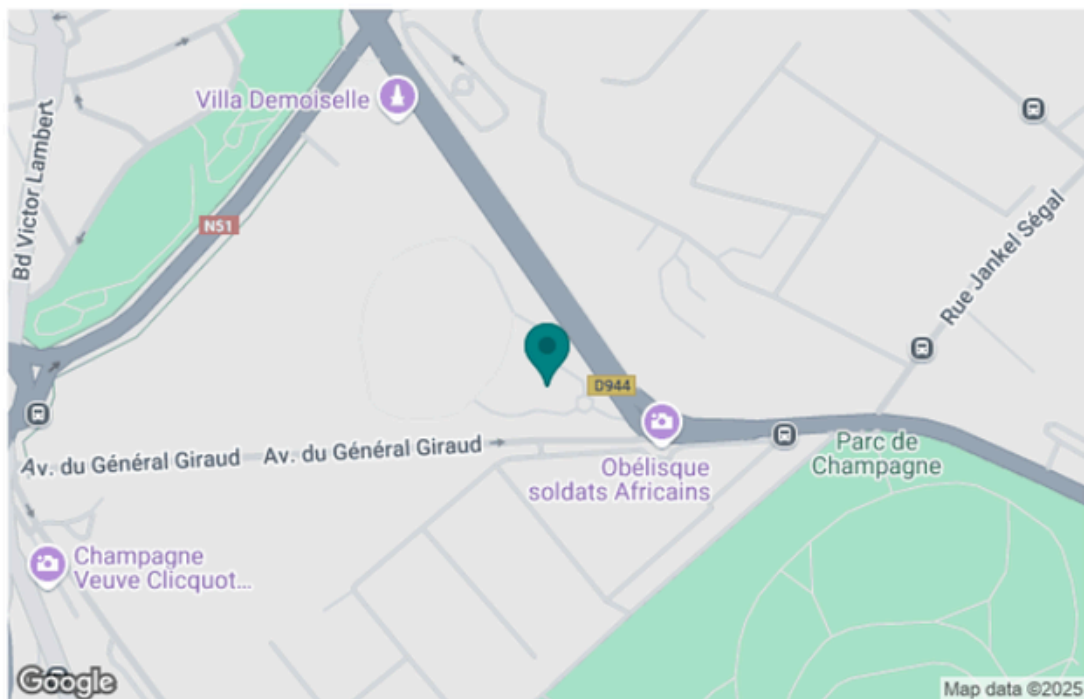
Kerry Walker TRAVEL WRITER
01 March 2018 7:00am GMT

9/10

Location

Superb. Château Les Crayères sits in seven hectares of beautifully tended grounds, just a few minutes' stroll from the major champagne houses in Reims. Pommery, Veuve Clicquot and Taittinger, for instance, offer tastings and tours giving a fascinating peek into the crayères, pyramid-shaped Gallo-Roman chalk quarries turned Champagne cellars, brimming with millions of precious bottles. It's a five-minute cab ride or 30-minute walk into central Reims, which is a 45-minute TGV ride from Paris Est.

The big-hitters in Reims are the sensational Gothic cathedral, which famously hosted the coronation of Charles VII in 1429, with Joan of Arc at his side, and Benedictine St-Rémi Basilica – both Unesco World Heritage sites.



10_{/10} Style and Character

You'll feel like French royalty the minute you arrive at this grandest of châteaux and clap eyes on its elegant colonnade, Belle Epoque-style mansard roof and topiary-framed parterre. The mood is hushed and exclusive, the décor ornate. We're talking sweeping marble staircases, salons festooned with gilt-framed oil paintings, corridors with padded wall coverings in deepest claret red, highly polished silverware and antiques everywhere. It's decadent and romantic - a Versailles in miniature that is the stuff of honeymoons and weekend-away liaisons.



9/10

Service and Facilities

As you might expect in a hotel of this calibre – built for Louise Pommery, Duchess of Polignac, in 1904 – the service is formal and flawless. There's an air of discretion, but a full concierge service is provided should you so wish. Besides swanning around the grounds, you'll almost certainly want to factor in champagne tasting at one of the nearby cellars. The hotel can arrange activities from horse riding to golf and tennis, and also organises a number of clubs and classes – from yoga to wine lectures (the website has full details).

- ✓ Bar
- ✓ Laundry
- ✓ Parking
- ✓ Restaurant
- ✓ Room service
- ✓ Wi-Fi

9/10

Rooms

The palatial décor extends to the rooms, of which there are just 20 – all special and no two alike. Many are a fine weft of rococo and Belle Epoque styles, with heavy drapes, richly patterned fabrics and a nod to Louis XV in the antique furnishings. The windows open onto Juliet balconies overlooking the gardens, the bathrooms all differ – some are marble, some have showers others tubs – and all come with luscious Hermès toiletries. A knock on your hotel room when you arrive? That will be the butler bringing you a glass of champagne on the house – rather nice bienvenue.

10_{/10} Food and Drink

Even at breakfast, they never miss a trick here – there are fresh squeezed juices and fruits, oven-warm pastries and breads, homemade spreads, yogurts and panna cotta, and eggs to order, all served à la carte and with a silver-salver flourish.

Gastronomes come from far and wide to Les Crayères for two-Michelin-starred Le Parc restaurant, where head chef Philippe Mille takes pride in regional sourcing and puts his own stamp on dishes such as duck foie gras poached in rosé champagne and hibiscus wine-flavoured pear with saffron-infused fruits.

The best deal is the €70 (£63) lunch menu (€90 [£80] with wine pairing). More than 600 different champagnes are on the wine list. More relaxed is post-industrial-style, brick-walled Le Jardin, a brasserie in a conservatory in the grounds, which plays up regional ingredients with flair.

9_{/10} Value for Money

Double rooms from €380 (£337) in low season; and from €395 (£350) in high. Breakfast €31 (£28). Free Wi-Fi.

Access for guests with disabilities?

There is a ramp allowing access to public areas but no adapted rooms.

Family-Friendly?

There is a junior suite with a sofa bed that can accommodate families. The hotel has a small playground in the grounds and offers children's menus and a babysitting service.

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lescrayeres.com