

# Still standing tall

It's been a rocky decade for Europe, but as we approach the 2020s, Paris still lights the way in business and commerce as well as art, fashion, gastronomy and culture

**A**mid the greatest uncertainty peacetime Europe has faced, Paris stands as a beacon of hope. Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris may have fallen (for now), but everything the city of light stands for still shines brightly. And despite political instability, the bubble continues to grow, and business is thriving.

In line with a city brimming with character, each of Paris' business districts has its own distinct features, from Romanesque and Gothic architecture to the ultra-

**Below:** The view of the Eiffel Tower with La Défense, Paris' CBD, in the background

contemporary jungle of concrete skyscrapers and glass in La Défense, the heart of the Parisian and European business.

#### STAY

Located inside La Défense Quatre Temps Shopping Center, The Hilton offers spacious and tranquil accommodation, with shops open seven days a week. Take a luxury suite with a large desk and high-speed internet access. The hotel has nine meeting rooms on a dedicated floor, each drenched in natural light with beautiful views of the Grande Arche, which

remembers the brutal and bloody French Revolution.

Enjoy local and international dishes at Côté Parvis before retiring to the beautiful Tangerine Bar to peruse its extensive cocktail in a sophisticated setting.

Located in the Hauts-de-Seine, just six kilometres from the centre of Paris, La Défense is a natural extension of the Central Business District or QCA as the most densely occupied part of the capital is known.

The Four Seasons Hotel George V is nestled in the Golden Triangle of Paris, just off the historic Champs-Elysées with oversized suites that have Eiffel Tower views. Its three restaurants have five Michelin stars among them,

and the hotel has a new spa, an elegant swimming pool and a courtyard.

Construction starts this year on a series of mixed municipality buildings that will raise the roof on Paris – and its accommodation – each levelling out at a higher point than Tour First, which currently stands as the city's highest building.

In the meantime, the Hotel Square Louvois offers luxurious accommodation, and fitness and business facilities, in the Paris Bourse Business District, which is fast becoming the city's burgeoning hub for innovation and digital technology.

#### Hilton Paris La Defense

[hilton.com](http://hilton.com)

+33 1 46 92 10 10

#### Four Seasons Hotel George V

[fourseasons.com/George-V-Paris](http://fourseasons.com/George-V-Paris)

+33 1 49 52 70 00

#### Hotel Square Louvois

[hotel-louvois-paris.com](http://hotel-louvois-paris.com)

+33 1 86 95 02 02



#### DRINKS & DINNER

Beefbar has landed in Paris and it's housed in a historic Parisian pazzazz (a jaw-dropping Art Deco undertones and 30s French glamour spirit and oysters plucked from its 1898 Fermette Marboeuf restaurant days). It makes for the perfect mix of relaxed, but classy, with Spanish hams to smoked Mexican tacos and Japanese Kobe beef gyozas for starters and mains steeped in French classics like juicy Chateaubriand and filet mignon.

With one of the city's most sensational views of the iconic

Eiffel Tower, Girafe boasts an open-air terrace (all year around), 1930s interiors that recall Art Deco undertones and 30s French glamour spirit and oysters plucked from the country's best regions from Brittany to Oléron. You'll also find Sologne caviar, lobster, urchins, crayfish, and even cockles, as well as sashimi, ceviche, and whole fish grilled or roasted.

The Abyssé sushi restaurant has just been awarded with its first Michelin star. Tucked in the ground-floor salons of the

seventeenth-century Pavillon Ledoyen, it's Yannick Alléno's Japanese haven. Jean-Baptiste the saké sommelier and Adrien, the Maître d'hôtel do a wonderful job of tying the experience together by imparting their passion for sushi master Yasunari Okazaki's terrific nigiris and the very best tipple Japan has to offer.

For cycling enthusiasts, businesses can secure a VIP front seat to experience the final stage finish of the 106th Tour de France (28 July) on the Champs Elysées for a memorable day out with clients. Watch the ride into Paris – with Champagne in hand for the yellow jersey incumbent – and laps under the Arch de Triomphe.

#### Paris Jazz Festival

[festivalsduparcfloral.paris](http://festivalsduparcfloral.paris)

#### Bastille Fireworks

[en.parisinfo.com](http://en.parisinfo.com)

#### Le Tour VIP experience

[letour.fr/en/vip-programs](http://letour.fr/en/vip-programs)

#### SEE

The list of things not to see in Paris would be a lot shorter than the list of magnificent sights this historic city has to offer.

Apart from the obvious attractions, the Paris Jazz Festival (6-28 July) offers virtuoso music in the stunning botanical gardens of Parc Floral de Vincennes.

