

Atlas

July 2019

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Hotel report



Estella Shardlow
The *Atlas* deputy editor indulges at a rustic-luxe French retreat

THE STATS

Place de l'Église,
Crillon-le-Brave,
France
+33 4 90 65 61 61
crillonlebrave.com
Rooms: 33
Restaurants: 3
Pool: 1



✈️
Etihad offers two daily direct flights from Abu Dhabi to Paris.
etihad.com

Hôtel Crillon le Brave

Provence, France

Background

Sprawling over a terracotta-tiled hilltop hamlet, the hotel has the run of 17th-century buildings, cobbled terraces and a pose-worthy pool, with lofty vineyard views. Now part of the family-run Maison Pariente portfolio, this recently refurbished *grand dame* is looking better than ever.

Location

The Vaucluse area is picture-postcard Provence: olive groves, lavender fields and cherry orchards unfolding at the foot of Mont Ventoux, whose

limestone summit is a magnet for serious cyclists. Oenophiles make the pilgrimage to nearby Châteauneuf-du-Pape, while medieval Avignon, home to a major annual arts festival, is 40 minutes away.

Clientele

Linen-and-loafer-clad couples lapping up the *haute* romance of the place.

Staying in

Drift between lavender-infused massages in the candlelit Spa des Ecuries, stables once upon a time,

to the heated outdoor pool. Daily *pétanque* (like boules) tournaments are a hoot, and will help you work up an appetite for the fine-dining tasting menu at La Table du Ventoux, where local truffles, La Sorgue river trout and *fromage* get top billing.

Design notes

A chic rather than chintz take on classic French country style, thanks to Parisian designer Charles Zana. Think: natural materials (stone basins, oak beams), framed botanical prints and serene shades of

chalky blue, lemon and mint. Converted, centuries-old cottages make for a quaint, higgledy-piggledy feel, no two rooms the same.

The USP

Throw open those pale blue shutters and soak up the dreamy landscape that inspired Cézanne and Van Gogh. Whether it's glugging a crisp local rosé on the terrace or peddling down country lanes, this is pure Provençal perfection.

Avignon Festival is 4–23 July. festival-avignon.com