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## CRILLON-LE-BRAVE, HOTEL CRILLON LE BRAVE

BY HENNING HECKEL There is a hotel in the Provence village of Crillon-le-Brave. But you do not notice that, because the hotel rooms are hidden in the little houses of the village. The question then arises: who will take over whom - the village the hotel - or the hotel the village?



The best overview is provided to the guest when standing in the office of the concierge in front of the image of the Provence village from the early 1960s. If he sees how abandoned this village once was, change is hardly imaginable. It is thanks to the nose of a Canadian investor that this place with its eponymous hotel is now flourishing. At least touristy.

Visible from afar, Crillon le Brave sits enthroned on a hill and welcomes its guests with its sheltering alleys, hidden nooks and lovingly arranged paths.

Preserving the typical charm of a Provençal village, adjoining houses, stables or a former schoolhouse (here the reception is housed) have been converted into a hotel complex with adjoining gourmet restaurant and bistro. This forms with eight historic stone buildings the center of the village of the same name with about 500 inhabitants.

Admittedly, the guest does not find modern architectural influences here - preservation of monuments and preservation is the main theme here. Now the guest will find exactly what he expects of Provence: centenary sandstone, light blue shutters and wrought-iron railings characterize the exterior of each building.

The rooms and suites are spread over the typical local residences of former villagers and each tell a story of its own. So you go over the village church square to get to his room.

London interior designer Penny Lydon is responsible for the design. To maintain freshness and modernity, Lydon resorted to inlaid tables from Morocco and natural linen. They are combined and contrasted with French fabrics with patterns from the 18th and 19th centuries. Pictures of the British artist Julian Merrow-Smith, who has accompanied the hotel for many years, adorn the walls. Local accents are enhanced by antique accessories sourced from local craftsmen or the nearby antique markets, which are well worth exploring.

Refreshment is provided by the outdoor swimming pool in the heart of the village. Especially the ambiance of the new spa, which is housed in the old horse stable of the house. The several hundred-year-old vaulted stables contain several treatment rooms, including couple treatment. The original is the stone feeding trough, which is filled with fragrant layender flowers.

Ultimately, this hotel is a place to stay and dream. Culinary at the highest and most sustainable level - only from regional providers within 40 km, the wine cellar a paradise for lovers (the famous winery Châteauneuf-du-Pape is only a short drive away). From all the rooms and the spacious sun terrace of the restaurant or bistro, there is an impressive view of the surrounding landscape and the Mont Ventoux, the highest mountain in Provence.

## Prices for a double room start at 350 euros

## address

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