



**PRESS KIT**  
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# A luxury boutique hotel at the foot of the historic district of Fontarrabie

Villa Magalean is first and foremost Fontarrabie. Authentic, historical, where the salty air of the sea meets the mountains. Where those who live there have deep roots and a strong cultural identity.

The traveller who stops there will find an amazing range of sensations. The Basque Country on both sides of the border offers a rich variety of activities from calm, relaxing ones to athletic ones such as golf and world-class surfing. The area's cities also offer a host of cultural and gastronomic attractions.

In addition, Villa Magalean makes an ideal base from which to discover the surrounding region.



## A charming boutique hotel

The hotel is a large Basque-style villa built in the 1950s and renovated by a enthusiastic owners and architects. All work was done with the desire to offer guests the best of French, Spanish, and European expertise.

This intimate boutique hotel provides extremely personalised service to make your stay a pleasurable one. The experienced, professional hotel staff is perfectly able to meet the demands of guests and provide the best of two worlds: the comfort of home and the services of a great hotel. A discreet luxury.

## A sensual experience

Villa Magalean is a wonderful place to spend a holiday, as well as a great base from which to discover the region – unless, that is, you prefer to simply stay and enjoy all the hotel has to offer! The restaurant features such delights as a simple and delicious plancha, as well as sweet treats with aromatic tea and a wine list to pair beautifully with the food.

In addition, you may fancy a massage at the Henriette Spa with its rituals inspired by traditions a thousand years old, or an innovative treatment relying on state-of-the-art technology. That is, unless you prefer reading a good book in the Albertine lounge while appreciating the special atmosphere out of time.

## Villa Magalean

The name Magalean comes from the Basque word «magal» meaning either «mountain skirt» or «in the mother's arms».

Therefore, Magalean refers, on the one hand, to Hondarribia's geographical location at the foot of Mount Jaizkibel, protected from storms and strong winds off the ocean and, on the other hand, to the way the villa is in a small niche, its own special world where people can come to be pampered.

The name Magalean thus emphasises a strong regional influence and the spirit of the villa.



# Background

The Villa's early history revolves around three Frenchwomen whose paths crossed in the middle of the 20th century in Hondarribia.

The first was Albertine, after whom Villa Albertina (as Villa Magalean was initially called) was named. The second was Henriette, who married a young Spanish Basque refugee, Fernando Artola, during the Spanish Civil War and became the first beautician in Hondarribia. The third Frenchwoman, Monette – a friend of Henriette's and grandmother of the present owner – discovered Hondarribia in the early 1950s and shared her love of the town with her descendants.

The memory of these three Frenchwoman watches over the Villa Magalean.

## What was the building like before?

Located at the foot of Hondarribia's old town, Villa Magalean was totally renovated. The house was raised and rebuilt, and an extension was added. Everything was done in keeping with a style dating from the 1950s and before. This is obvious from the way the roof was done, with its large beams, as well as the stone decorations around the windows, wrought iron balconies, and herringbone parquet floors. The 19th century door, typical of entrances to mansions at the time, comes from an antique shop.

The renovation project was entrusted to the firm of Iñaki Biurrun. Located in San Sebastian and Madrid, they are skilled at creating places with a soul and managed at Villa Magalean to combine a very contemporary approach with a wide range of objects from various time periods that help to define the building. This accounts for the unique atmosphere that reflects the personality of the local inhabitants.



## Rooms and suites

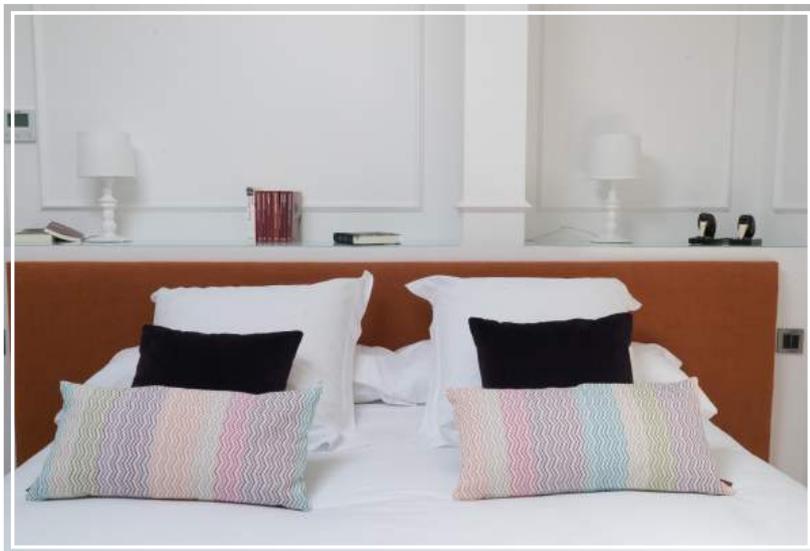
The hotel has 8 luxury rooms and suites with a private terrace or balcony. Connected two by two, these can be transformed into apartments with two or three rooms on request. Each room is individually decorated and features top-quality bedding, a luxurious bathroom, and high-tech equipment. Villa Magalean also offers all the services provided by a great hotel.

Nothing has been left to chance. Everything was done to make your stay unforgettable.

## Services

Air conditioning and individual heating · Bathrobe & slippers ·  
Welcome products by Cinq Mondes · Blankets & throws · Mini bar ·  
Café Richard coffee machine and kettle · Direct Dial telephone ·  
Free wifi · Coffee & Tea · Baby cot (on request) · King Size Bed ·  
Laundry and ironing service · Iron and board · Sound proofing ·  
Room Service · Electronic Safe















# The HENRIETTE SPA

Designed as a sort of cocoon in which to relax and recharge one's batteries, the Villa Magalean spa has a holistic approach to treatments. This can be seen from both inside and outside.

The Henriette Spa features a "sensory path" in keeping with the villa's history featuring a Turkish bath, exfoliation table, experience shower combining aromatherapy, luminotherapy, and sauna, as well as massages. The steps along the way make for a very pleasant time one could easily become addicted to! Unique in Hondarribia.

The Cinq Mondes rituals and beauty care products were chosen because of their grounding in ancient traditions focusing on breathing, relaxation, and energy circulation. In addition, to keep up with the most innovative treatments, Spa Henriette chose LPG® Endermologie protocols, in total agreement with French brand's philosophy of promoting «beauty that resembles you: healthy, natural and sustainable».



**SPA HENRIETTE**

VILLA MAGALEAN



# MAHASTI

Mahasti welcomes you all day long, starting with a gourmet breakfast of homemade dishes prepared with fresh, local ingredients, and either brought to your room or served in the hotel dining room. «Planchas» are available if you feel hungry after your walk. You may also wish to enjoy a snack of tea and small treats, or possibly a relaxing drink at the end of the afternoon.

The restaurant menu reflects the best of regional cuisine with a modern, gastronomic touch.

Juan Carlos Ferrando and his team reflect the spirit of the restaurant. They prepare elegant dishes that highlight and reinvent, rather than denature the natural goodness of ingredients. Their cuisine makes the most of local produce, but enriched with flavours from other regions.

## Signature dishes

Pickled Partridge, Season Mushrooms, Tomato and egg yolk  
Marined Mackerel, Seaweed Salad, Sesame, Olives and Coconut Soup  
Artichokes with Thyme, roasted Bacon Parmentier Potatoes  
Grilled turbot, candied leek and Slightly fried of garlic and chili pepper  
Wagyu Beef Fillet, Beetroot Compote and Cereals Salad  
Roasted Conference Pear, Ginger, Yogurt and Cheese Bleu des Basques  
Quince cream, peanut and cocoa crumble, spicy and aniseed flavors



**MAHASTI**

GASTRONOMIC WINE BAR



# The wine cellar

The wine cellar was created because it is impossible to imagine fine cuisine without good wine, and great wine without good food. This led to constituting a collection of wines including the greatest of Spain and France. However, the selection also includes lesser-known wines that reflect beautiful terroirs and gifted winemakers.

Didier Miqueu, the owner, is also a wine producer and merchant in Bordeaux. He decided to offer fine wines produced by his friends and himself, in every category, up to and including the greatest classified growths. Nerea Goni, who owns a wine shop in San Sebastian, accepted to help by proposing an unusual selection of Spanish wines – some little-known, but each with a story to tell.



**MAHASTI**

GASTRONOMIC WINE BAR

# Team

## Caroline Brousse et Didier Miqueu Owners

For Caroline and Didier, French entrepreneurs in love with Hondarribia, Villa Magalean provided a wonderful opportunity to create an elegant hotel exemplifying discreet luxury. They have created an establishment in keeping with the most stringent international standards, but which also has a warm atmosphere. Both Caroline and Didier started out with a veritable obsession for excellence and a deep respect for craftsmanship. They insisted on chic, cool decoration, tasteful tableware, refined gastronomy, fine wines, beautiful tableware, good service, and share the same passion for the Basque Country and Hondarribia.

## Susana Cardarelli Director

After a first work experience in London, Susana went to work in the high-end restaurant industry, including four years at Akelarre with Pedro Subijana, a chef in San Sebastian with three Michelin stars. She then successfully managed the Iturregi boutique hotel in Getaria. Susana is very details-oriented, an essential quality for a top-notch hotel. She also listens to others and is very attentive to guests' needs. Furthermore, she loves fine cuisine and good wines.

## Juan Carlos Ferrando Chef at MAHASTI

Juan Carlos Ferrando prepares dishes that are simple and delicious thanks to his many years of experience as a professional chef. In love with the Basque Country, he favours artisanal producers with whom he has developed a close relationship over the years. He uses their products to make dishes that are deceptively simple and has a gift for producing wonderful variations on regional cuisine. This Argentinian chef previously worked in the kitchens of Casa Masip (Ezcaray), Zortziko (Bilbao), Alameda (Hondarribia), Martin Berasategui (Lasarte), and La Broche (Madrid). He then run the restaurant of the Viura hotel in Villabuena de Álava during 5 years

## Elixabete Elduayen Cosmetologist and masseuse at the Henriette Spa

After studying law, her passion for beauty care took her to Mexico for five years starting where she helped to create and manage the spa in a five-star hotel. However, Elixabete felt the draw of Hondarribia and returned to the Basque Country to join the Villa Magalean team. She is able to talk about treatments and creams for hours... She is skilled at reading body language and has a real talent for conferring serenity and energy with the power of her hands.



# Decoration

Villa Magalean is decorated in an updated 1920s style. Reflecting a tasteful and very personal interpretation of colours, shapes, and materials, the decoration showcases items and materials from the best and most creative suppliers, reflecting various European influences. These suppliers epitomise innovation, while retaining expertise handed down through the years. The hotel also features a host of decorative traditional objects of all kinds that were bought in antique shops or at auction. These bear witness to the area's customs and culture. There is no off note whatsoever in the decoration, which surprises and reassures.

## Fittings

### **Eichholtz, Netherlands**

Beautiful modern furniture in an attractive, sober style, with studied simplicity.

### **XVL Collection, Belgium**

Furniture and accessories with multiple inspirations. A style that is modern, but also timeless.

### **Holland & Sherry, United Kingdom**

Their choice of materials – wool, linen, and velvet - is of exquisite quality.

### **C&C Milano Italy**

Exclusive handmade original items.

### **Karman, Italy**

Both contemporary and classical, with a touch of fantasy.

### **Lladro, Spain**

Porcelain that's like a dream.

### **Haviland, France**

One of the last great porcelain houses in Limoges.

### **Cofravin, France**

A family firm whose expertise focuses on tailor-made wine cellars.

### **Provence & fils et les étains de Lyon, France**

A charming bar in the heart of the restaurant.

### **Verre & Quartz, France**

Creators of spa facilities that please all the senses and pamper those who use them.

### **Sika-Design, Denmark**

This firm has been specialised in outdoor handmade rattan furniture for three generations.

### **03AM, Basque Country**

Designers located in the Basque Country and Barcelona, highly-reputed for their original products

### **Vanessa Dazelle, Basque Country**

Stained glass, a family passion.

# Partners

## International



« Boutique hotels for global nomads »

Because we adhere to their philosophy by offering accommodation that is out of the ordinary, viewing travel as an eye-opening learning experience, a dream come true.

## France



Because we share a spirit of curiosity, high standards, and generosity, as well as a love of receiving guests and the simple, elegant things in life. We champion authentic cuisine and its enjoyment as one of life's great pleasures.

## Spain



Because we believe, like the founders Isabel and Carlota, that true emotion comes from little things that speak to all our senses as well as a continuous attention to detail. A spirit of true hospitality.

# Which makes us proud

« El 10 existe. Está aquí. Sobresaliente en todo. Desde que entras pensando si responderá a las altas expectativas hasta que sales, pensando que las superó.»

«Delicadeza y exquisitez.»

«L'accueil. L'emplacement. La propreté. La qualité des services en général. Le restaurant avec sa seiche à l'encre ! Une merveille ! Ainsi que la qualité des vins. A faire et à refaire.»

«Le rêve commence à l'entrée de la Villa lorsqu'on vient vous ouvrir la porte avec sourire et gentillesse. L'hôtesse nous fait la présentation des lieux. Vous entrez sur un beau salon avec la cheminée qui crépite en fond. Nous avons choisi la chambre Pasajes avec balcon et baignoire. Tout est fait avec goût moulures sur les murs et au plafond. Une literie très très confortable. Vous passez ensuite dans la salle de bain où là encore aucune faute de goût. Le petit déjeuner est compris dans le prix, on vous proposera de le prendre dans la chambre pour le même prix. Faites le choix de l'heure et choix des aliments : Œufs brouillés ou au plat, Bacon grillé, Céréales Viennoiseries, Tartines.»

Booking - 9,8

«Une belle maison basque transformée en hotel boutique, un service discret mais très efficace et attentionné, des chambres spacieuses, décorées avec beaucoup de goût et le moindre détail, une cuisine typique au top, un petit déjeuner complet et raffiné, bref une adresse à partager !»

«Es un hotel para relajarse, disfrutar del spa y los tratamientos que son de un nivel muy alto. Dispone de restaurante, donde disponen de menú degustación o carta. También hacen cenas maridaje con responsables de alguna bodega para presentar vinos, etc... El personal de sala muy profesional os aconsejará sobre platos, vinos, etc.. En general una experiencia única, tanto por el personal como las instalaciones que son de un nivel altísimo.»

«This is a small and excellent boutique hotel. Facilities are first class. Rooms are modern and comfortable, with many TV international channels. The restaurant offers high quality food. Location is fabulous. And best of all, the staff, really friendly and efficient. I will keep a very good memory of this hotel.»

Tripadvisor - 5, Exceptionnel

«This villa-turned-hotel bursts at the seams with luxury surprises and hip touches. From the literary snob-stocked library to the Bluetooth Marshall speakers, every moment in Villa Magalean is worth savouring (and Instagramming).»

«Feel free to lock yourself into Villa Magalean and never leave, because this tiny hotel has outsize facilities. The luxury starts on the ground floor, where Spa Henriette works major magic with Cinq Mondes products, Ayurvedic massages and globally inspired treatments. Salon Albertine houses a stylish library with a fabulous selection (from Gabriel Garcia Marquez to illustrated books on Basque history) that you can take up to your room, as well as Scrabble, monopoly and cards. The garden terraces are also lovely for relaxing when weather permits.»

«Service is exceptional, friendly tending toward formal. Staff is accommodating and interested when it needs to be, silent and subtle when it needs to be.»

Telegraph 9/10



**VILLA MAGALEAN**

HONDARRIBIA

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