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 View gallery

Alpha-Palmiers by Fassbind

Lausanne, Switzerland

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7/10

Telegraph expert rating

" Understandably popular with business guests due to its calming design and conference facilities, this city-centre hotel wins you over with its convenient location, tranquil atmosphere, extremely spacious rooms and quality Thai restaurant. "

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Telegraph Review

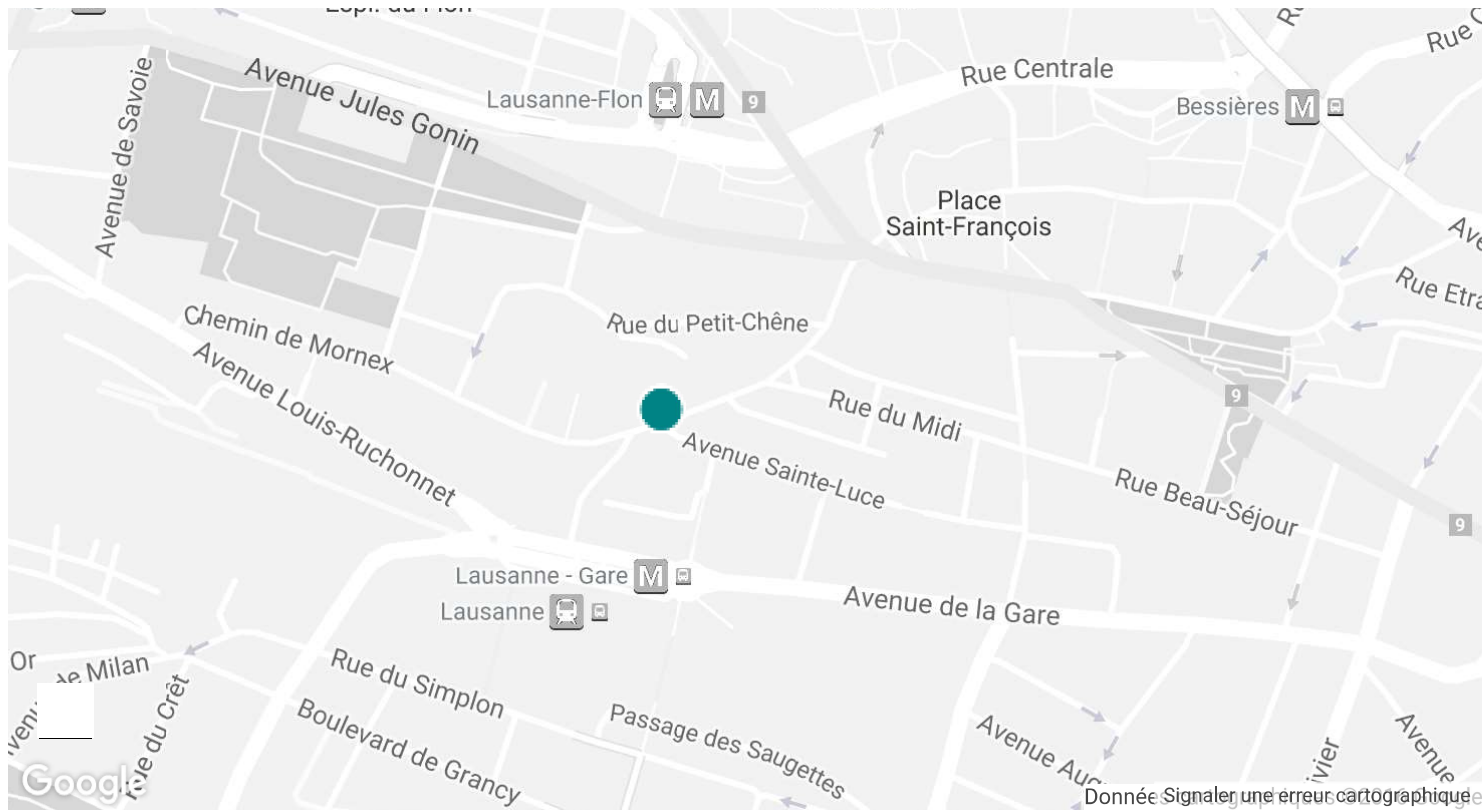


By **Caroline Bishop**

Location

9/10

Right in the centre of things, two minutes' walk from Lausanne's main train station on an attractive cobbled hill that leads up to the city centre. If you don't fancy the short hike up, the metro opposite the station will whisk you one stop up into town or four down to the lakeshore at Ouchy.



Style & character

7/10

Though a large, busy city-centre hotel, a sense of calm pervades the building thanks to its tropics-inspired decor. The smart foyer gives way to a relaxed lounge with wicker chairs, floral cushions and leaf-shaped tables. Palm trees, bamboo plants, potted orchids and Buddha statues are strewn around the lounge and adjacent Thai restaurant, while both areas look out onto a serene garden courtyard where trees waft over a pond dotted with flaming lanterns. It's a flattering look for what is, architecturally, quite an unattractive building.

Service & facilities

7/10

Service in the bar and restaurant is prompt and attentive, and staff on the front desk are helpful. Facilities seem particularly geared towards business guests; there are several conference rooms and a small business area next to reception offering photocopiers and computers. The layout of the circular glass building is maze-like, and it takes some time (and a trip to reception to ask directions) to find the fitness centre tucked away on the top floor. Spotlessly clean (perhaps because no one can find it), it has several machines, a sauna and a hammam.

- ✓ Bar
- ✓ Fitness centre
- ✓ Laundry
- ✓ Parking
- ✓ Restaurant
- ✓ Room service
- ✓ Sauna

- ✔ Steam room/hammam
- ✔ Wi-Fi

Rooms

7/10

Though there's an attempt to continue the tropical theme in the 215 rooms, it's not as successful as downstairs. That's mainly because, with their beige curtains and walls, the rooms feel a little dated. But what they lack in style they make up for in size. Standard rooms are very large; mine has plenty of space for a double bed (albeit two singles together), a big sofa, funky lime-green armchair and footstool, plus a desk and chair. The bathroom is also spacious, containing a shower over the bath, a huge mirror and capacious cupboard. Ask for a room overlooking the inner courtyard to avoid street noise.

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Food & drink

7/10

The hotel's two restaurants are on the ground floor, accessed from the lobby via a little wooden footbridge. To the left is a bistro serving Swiss and French classics (beef tartare, fondue, fish from Lac Léman); to the right, and more in keeping with the hotel's decor, is Le Jardin Thai. It's hard to find good quality Thai food in Lausanne, so the tasty dishes prepared by the hotel's longstanding Thai chef are a pleasant surprise. I chose a fish and papaya salad that was light, tangy and moreish, followed by a delicious and generously sized Panaeng curry. Served in the same restaurant, the breakfast buffet is a fairly standard affair but has plenty of options.

Value for money

7/10

Double rooms from 120 CHF (£94) to 250 CHF (£196); the hotel operates an airline system whereby prices change depending on demand. Breakfast excluded, available at 22 CHF (£17) per person for a full buffet breakfast, or you can order à la carte. Free Wi-Fi.

Access for guests with disabilities?

Adapted rooms available. Lifts to all floors.

Family-friendly?

There are some interconnecting rooms, and rooms with kitchenettes are available for a supplement. The bistro has a children's menu.

📍 Rue du Petit-Chêne, 34 1003, Lausanne, Switzerland.