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BALI INDONESIA

DESTINATION REVIEW

AN ISLAND
WOVEN IN **MYTH**,
MAJESTY, AND
MODERN MAGIC

PLUS WE INVITE YOU TO EXPLORE FOUR DISTINCT REGIONS OF SCOTLAND

CHÂTEAU DE CANDIE

CHAMBÉRY

A FAIRYTALE RETREAT IN THE FRENCH ALPS

Nestled on a sun-dappled hillside above Chambéry, the 14th-century Château de Candie is a fortified manor turned boutique hotel that feels plucked from the pages of a storybook.

From the moment we were collected at Geneva Airport, Brice, our driver, welcomed us with a chilled glass of champagne and a small picnic for the scenic hour-long drive through the Alpine foothills.

Built by the noble Candie family, allies of the House of Savoy, the château has passed through centuries of aristocratic ownership. In the 17th century, it belonged to Piedmontese merchant Jean André Sarde, and later to Caroline de Saint Séverin, whose family lived there for over sixty years. The turret now a romantic honeymoon

suite has served as a dovecote, chapel, and artist's studio.

In 1990, antique collector Didier Lhostis undertook a meticulous four-year restoration, preserving the château's historic soul while introducing elegant interiors and whimsical flourishes. Since 2016, Purple Summer has elevated it into a four-star luxury retreat.

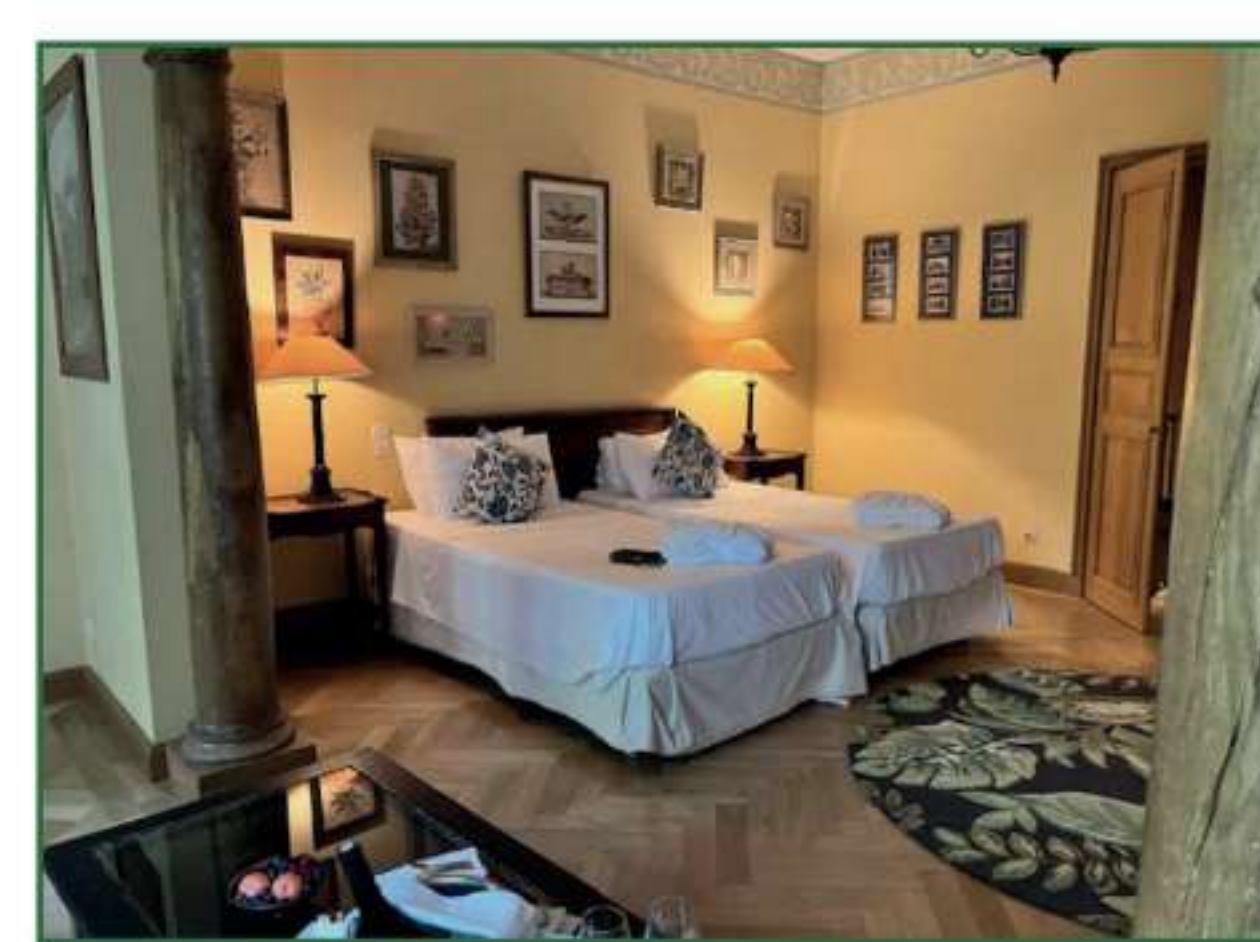
Set above Chambéry's eight hamlets, the château commands panoramic views of the Chartreuse mountains and Dent du Chat peak. Its six-hectare park is a masterclass

in landscaping with century-old trees, bubbling fountains, flowering borders, and a revived vineyard producing Candie 1891 Viognier on calcareous slopes. The grounds are pristine - perfect for quiet reflection or leisurely strolls, with butterflies, bees, and mountain vistas completing the scene.

Hospitality here is deeply personal. Katie, the general manager, was warm, intuitive, and ever-present. Her passion for the château was infectious, and every member of staff reflected the same gracious, generous spirit that makes this place quietly magical.

The château offers 25 individually styled rooms and suites, each named after historical figures and adorned with antiques, plush fabrics, and curated artwork. Our Junior Suite was palatial approximately 60 square metres with a separate dressing area, velvet settee, antique writing desk, and a marble-clad bathroom featuring the largest marble bath I've ever seen, alongside a separate shower and L'Occitane toiletries. Amenities included a minibar, kettle, and Nespresso machine, all tucked discreetly into antique cabinetry.

The turret suite, La Tour de la Duchesse, is a triplex spread across three floors, with a



spiral staircase linking a salon, bedroom, and bathroom. It's a favourite for romantics, evoking unmistakable "Beauty and the Beast" charm.

DINING & DRINKS: A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

DDinner at La Cantine, the château's istronomic restaurant, was unforgettable. Head Chef Badara Gueye, a Senegalese talent, masterfully fuses classic French techniques with African spices and alpine ingredients. Each dish was a work of art, from delicate fish ceviche or river char with fennel, to a steak that melted like butter. His passion for painting is reflected in the presentation, and while his artworks usually adorn the château, they were on exhibition at a nearby gallery during my visit.

Breakfast was served in a rustic dining room or on the terrace, with a generous spread of local meats, pastries, and seasonal fruit. The cheeses were a standout - creamy, full of character, and even better paired with a glass of wine.

The château offers its own trio of distinctive bars:

- **Champagne & Oyster Bar:** A design marvel within La Cantine, featuring a chandelier made of inverted champagne flutes. It's the perfect spot for apéritifs



with views of the Croix du Nivolet and Bauges massif.

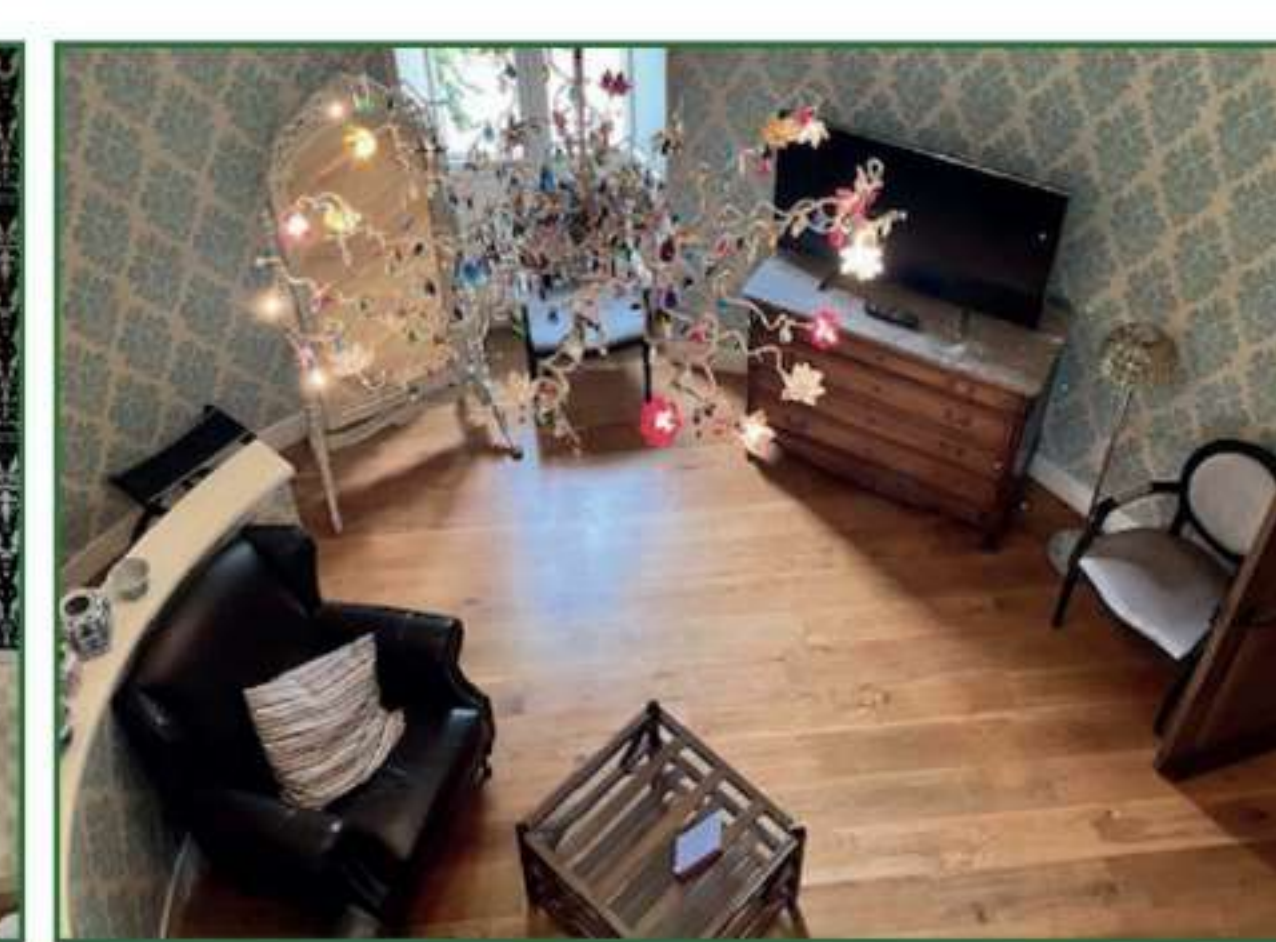
- **Whisky Bar:** Tucked behind reception, this cosy, club-like lounge invites guests to sink into deep armchairs by a crackling fireplace, with a curated selection of international whiskies and Savoie wines.

- **Honesty Tiki Bar:** Nestled beside the pool, this relaxed, self-serve bar offers chilled wines, beers, and soft drinks - encouraging guests to linger and unwind.

A small gym is available onsite, and massage services can be arranged on request.

Guests are invited to dine at Le Lido during warmer months, where the lakeside terrace becomes a stage for long, leisurely lunches and sunset cocktails. Situated on Lake Bourget, France's largest freshwater lake and approximately 10 minutes by car, Le Lido is part of Purple Summer's curated portfolio and was a sensory celebration of Savoie's finest produce. Velvet chairs, marble tables, and sweeping lake views created a theatrical setting. Post-lunch cocktails and lakeside lounging completed the experience.

Resident sommelier Raphael Diatta offers a wine tasting masterclass. Trained in Burgundy, his exceptional knowledge and enthusiasm made for a fantastic experience.



Due to the weather, our tasting was held indoors, which had the added benefit of offering a broader selection of wines and lively insights into the region. On our final day, we were treated to a vineyard picnic. Sitting among the vines with champagne, local delicacies, and mountain views in the background. Pure indulgence!

Château de Candie is also a sought-after venue for weddings and events. The Salle des Glaces hosts up to 180 guests, while the Grilles and Château salons suit meetings and receptions. All spaces are bathed in natural light and offer scenic views.

Though close to Chambéry and the motorway, the château feels blissfully secluded. With its tranquil grounds, destination-worthy dining, and heartfelt hospitality, it's a hidden gem that often turns a stopover into a cherished memory.

Château de Candie is more than a hotel - it's a living narrative of elegance, warmth, and timeless charm. Every detail, from antique key fobs to handpicked wine pairings, reflects a team deeply devoted to guest experience. It's a place where time slows, senses awaken, and memories linger.

As we waved goodbye under the golden afternoon sun, the vines glowing in its light, we knew we'd return.

Nightly rates start at €200 (B&B), with exclusive hire from €15,000.

