

W New Orleans - French Quarter Hotel: The New Cool Kid on the Block

New Orleans is one of the most eclectic, vibrant cities in the United States. It has historic buildings that have withstood the tests of time. In recent years, the Crescent City has also had an infusion of exciting, hip flavor added throughout this amazing city. The W New Orleans - French Quarter hotel is the new kid on the block that has blended and even elevated the style & flavor of the neighborhood.

W French Quarter brings a style all its own while borrowing décor and flavors from the surrounding area. Driving by, you could almost miss the hotel completely if it weren't for the glowing blue lights hanging from the driveway. Checking in, you immediately see the buzzing bar and restaurant, SoBou, which is part of the Commander's family of restaurants. When I checked in, our room wasn't quite ready so we had a couple of cocktails and an appetizer at the bar. Our bartender, Abigail, wowed us with her dramatic flair and vast knowledge of the city. She enlightened us with some historical facts and suggested some not-to-be missed sites. The food incorporates the tradition Cajun & Creole flavors of New Orleans, but with nouveau style unique to SoBou (Duck Leg & Foie Gras Boudin, Crispy Oyster Taco... YUM!).

Our funky, stylish room overlooked the gorgeous courtyard. We had a lovely balcony where we could relax after a day roaming the city. The bright yellow & black décor, complete with our tuxedo bed, was a fun contrast to the other more traditional hotels.

Down the hallway, which was lined with rows of concentric circles resembling records, was their workout room, FIT, where guests could work-off their beignets & fried catfish po-boys. Personally, I never saw a single person actually using the gym, but I'm sure it would be a nice private room should an ambitious guest choose to use the brand new stationary bikes & elliptical machines.

The beautiful courtyard has comfortable cabanas and sitting areas facing a trickling fountain. This seemed to be a popular spot for hung-over guests recovering from late nights filled with Sazeracs and Hurricanes. There is also a pristine gated pool attached to the courtyard for those warm Louisiana days.

Being that all of my family is from Southern Louisiana, I consider New Orleans my second home. I've stayed at various hotels and B&B's in the area, but the W French Quarter is my new go-to home away from home. The location is the best you'll find and the hotel staff makes you feel like family. SoBou restaurant rivals some of the best restaurants in the area and the unique vibe makes this place extra special.

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