

Condé Nast Traveler Hot List Hotels 2007

LA RÉSIDENCE HOTEL & SPA



Perched on the banks of the Perfume River just upstream from Hue's famous citadel, this 122-room hotel takes its identity from the former French colonial governor's mansion at its core. The same nautical moderne architecture that makes the villa so charming is reprised in the two modern wings, which were added during a thorough yet sensitive renovation of the original building so that the place is pure Indochine. The original villa includes a reception area decorated with framed photos of Old Hue and an adjacent bar with deep club chairs—and eight dreamy rooms, plus a presidential suite. These have a colonial feel, with ceiling fans, mosquito netting (for atmosphere more than necessity), and dark-stained wood furnishings. An additional 112 rooms are housed in the new wings, which frame a large pool overlooking the river.



When to go: Avoid only central Vietnam's rainy season, which runs from November through January.

Which room to book: Spring for one of the rooms in the original villa, which are more atmospheric, or book a double with a river view.

5 Le Loi Street, Hue City, Vietnam - Tel: 84 54 837 475

La Résidence Hotel & Spa

Hue, Vietnam

Watsu pools, color therapy, and ice rooms notwithstanding, a great spa is ultimately about great therapists. The recent addition at [La Résidence Hotel](#) is a modest 1,250 square feet and seven treatment rooms, but it vaults into the big league with a great treatment menu and a talented, hardworking all-Vietnamese team (trained by Italian spa brand Comfort Zone). After a punishing day of trekking around the city's famous citadel, book a skin-repair massage with therapist Ho Thi Huong (\$60). Renewal begins with an exfoliation and the application of hydrating cream (made more efficient with the use of a steam machine), and continues with a powerful massage blending traditional Vietnamese and soothing Balinese techniques. Afterward, snuggle up in a heavy terry-cloth robe over a cup of green tea on the terrace overlooking the eddying Perfume River (massages, \$28–\$34).

Tel: 84-54-873-475; la-residence-hue.com

Amenities: Urban hotel spa, Resort spa, Views