



HOTEL BELLES RIVES

F. Scott Fitzgerald and his wife Zelda moved into this villa in 1925. Formerly called the Villa Saint-Louis in a cove on the Cap d'Antibes, it was here that he wrote his masterpiece, 'Tender is The Night'. They spent years transforming the Villa into a resort for wealthy Americans who came to discover the pleasures of wild partying and swimming in the sea.

In 1929 the villa became the Hotel Belles Rives, and in 1929 Boma Estène, accompanied by his wife Simone, the daughter of a long-line of hoteliers from Antibes, took over from the Fitzgeralds and converted the Villa Saint-Louis into a seaside resort.

In 2001, Marianne Estène-Chauvin, Boma and Simone's granddaughter, bought out the hotel from the other members of the family and in 2006, she bought the neighboring Hotel Juana, another jewel and popular celebrity retreat in Juan les Pins.

I had a wonderful evening with Madame Marianne as she hosted me for dinner in the hotels stunning La Passagère Restaurant. Magnificent chandeliers illuminate the room, filled with art from the 1930's and hand-painted Bernardaud porcelain plates proudly display a delightful degustation menu custom made by Michelin star Executive Chef Yoricre Tièche. Steve Moracchini's famous fruit inspired desserts ended the feast.



*Waterfront dining area of the Hotel Belles Rives
(Photo by Jim Dobson)*



*Madame Marianne Estène-Chauvin
in the iconic Fitzgerald Bar of the Hotel Belles Rives (Photo by Jim Dobson)*