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The discreet **Hotel Particulier** is surrounded by private gardens in a residential area.

elegance. The friendly staff's welcome extends to personal touches like self-serve shoe-buffers on each landing.

The **Best Western Regent's Garden** (www.hotel-paris-garden.com; from \$162) is a short walk to the Arc-de-Triomphe and the end of the Champs-Élysées. This is not your average Best Western—the hotel is located in a mansion that Napoleon III built for his doctor. The 30 (out of a total of 40) refurbished guest rooms are gargantuan by Parisian standards. A continental breakfast is served at the café tables in the neatly landscaped courtyard beneath the gaze of a cherub statuary. South of the Seine, the **Hotel La Manufacture** (www.hotel-la-manufacture.com; from \$115) is well-placed for sightseeing—just steps from the Place D'Italie Metro (lines 5, 6, 7). In the opposite direction, a few blocks down Avenue des Gobelins, you will come to the mouth of Rue Mouffetard and its open-air market. The hotel feels new and cheery—its 57 guest rooms and breakfast room are sun-filled and modern with neutral colors and bold art. The Marché Franprix (local supermarket) one block from the hotel is one clue this section of the 13th arrondissement serves residents. Another is the non-English-speaking waitstaff at the affordable and tasty restaurants along the avenue, including creperie La Taverne des Poetes.

CHECKING IN

Hotels With a Heart

Your overnight visit may aid programs that give back.

When hotels offer programs that commit to employees, volunteerism, neighboring communities, and the environment, everyone wins. These properties are helping humanity in unique and special ways—providing much more than great places to sleep. ■ In the Dominican Republic, **Sanctuary Cap Cana** (www.capcana.com) employs 13 local fishermen to supply fish for its seafood restaurant, Blue Marlin. The skilled anglers are paid market rate for their catch,

earn an hourly wage, and are provided with boats, gasoline, and housing for their families.

■ Through its Rockhouse Foundation, the **Rockhouse Hotel** in Negril, Jamaica (www.rockhousehotel.com), has renovated and expanded the once dilapidated and overcrowded Negril All Age School (*schoolchildren are pictured right*).

■ Guests at San Francisco's **Hotel Adagio** (www.jdvhotels.com/adagio) can volunteer at Glide Memorial Church and assist with their daily meals program. Glide's initiative, featured in the film *The Pursuit of Happyness*, serves meals to the homeless each day.

■ **Marriott International** (www.marriott.com) has partnered with Brazil's state of Amazonas to help protect 1.4 million acres of endangered rain forest in the Juma Sustainable Development Reserve and provide education, health care, and employment for the region's inhabitants. ■ At the **Marquis Los Cabos** in Mexico (www.marquisloscabos.com), a percentage of the hotel's annual revenue is earmarked for the staff's education and health care. Since 2003, the resort has helped an average of 20 employees a year obtain primary schooling and bachelor's degrees. ■ With **Fairmont's** (www.fairmont.com) Green Partnership program, hotels help protect Hawaii's coral reef. In Scotland, the Fairmont St. Andrews continues to preserve a 41-mile coastal trail. ■ Guests of the **Mandarin Oriental Miami** (www.mandarinoriental.com/miami) can volunteer at the Florida Everglades National Park by helping to plant trees. ■ Through its Passion for the Environment program, **El Dorado Spa Resorts & Hotels** (www.eldoradosparesorts.com) maintains sustainability programs at its hotels, including using recycled water for landscaping and solar panels for energy. —JERYL BRUNNER



The hotel **El Dorado Maroma** in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, operates on 100 percent solar power.