


MEET ME AT THE WALDORF

Private Air Indulges In The Magic of
Manhattan's Waldorf Astoria

BY: GINA SAMAROTTO



Manhattan's Waldorf Astoria. From Queen Elizabeth to Marilyn Monroe to every US President since Herbert Hoover, the Waldorf is renowned for being the address of choice for New York's most elite visitors. She's an iconic, art deco landmark - made all the more famous by an unparalleled level of hospitality wrapped in impeccable service and served with gracious tradition.





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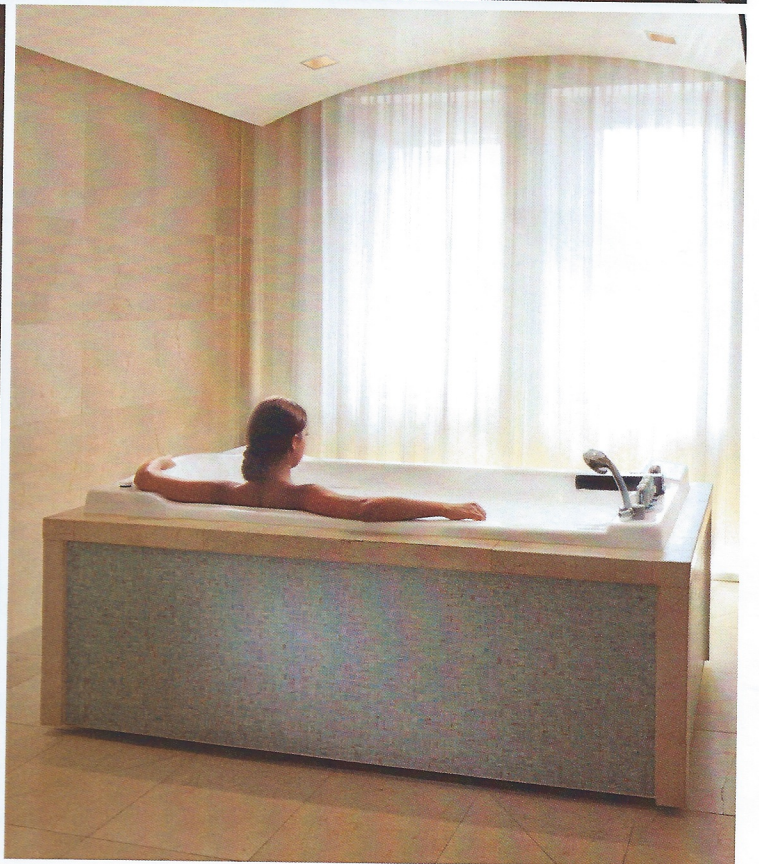
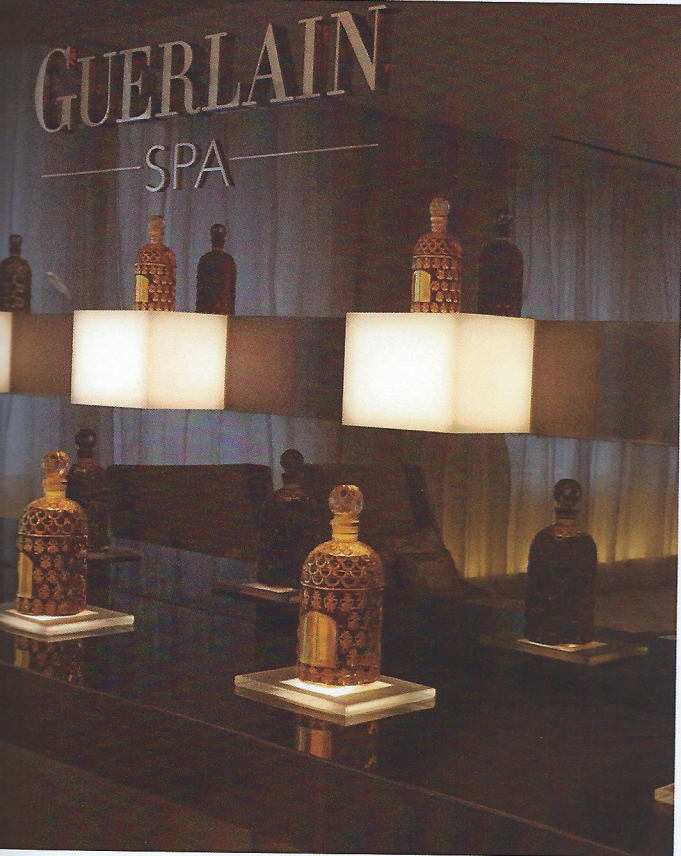
*Above:
The golden hue, Park Avenue
Lobby of the Waldorf Astoria*

*Opposite, Clockwise from top:
The living room of the Waldorf
Astoria Penthouse Suite, A
hydrotherapy relaxation suite in the
Guerlain Spa AND The Guerlain
Spa at the Waldorf Astoria*

Despite the easy proximity to this glittering gem set within the city that never sleeps; when you live in New York it’s easy to forget – at least temporarily – the magic of your own hometown. Situated on Park Avenue at East 50th, the Waldorf is at the epicenter of one of Manhattan’s chicest neighborhoods. Boasting a glamorous lobby, notable restaurants and the Towers – 181 spacious, decadent rooms and suites comprising what is referred to as an opulent ‘a hotel within a hotel’, the Waldorf is a deliciously appealing destination for New Yorkers looking for a magical respite from the every day.

“The Waldorf is unlike any other hotel,” affirms Jackie Collens, Director of Luxury Sales. “We have an incomparable, 123 suites in the Towers. We don’t have a Presidential Suite, we have twenty-six Presidential Suites. There are 140 chefs on staff. Everything we do is with meticulous attention to detail. Everywhere you look there’s luxury. The Waldorf has a timelessness, an elegance that you just won’t find anywhere else.”

With all due respect to the tony location, it is quite possible – and perhaps even preferable – to weekend at the Waldorf without ever venturing from her elegant embrace. Case in point, the European-inspired oasis known as the Guerlain Spa. A sigh-worthy shrine dedicated to pure indulgence where upon arrival, guests are invited to make use of the steam rooms or relax with a glass of champagne in the sleek salon before being ushered into utter bliss. Facials, massages and myriad other soothing therapies are delivered in immaculate treatment rooms – each featuring a private shower, vanity space and changing area and each boasting amenities including toiletries, a cell phone charging station and a speaker system that allows guests to become lost in their own music as they submit to the heavenly ministrations of the Guerlain staff. While normally the conclusion of a spa session isn’t reason to celebrate, at the Waldorf leaving the spa is made a bit sweeter with the addition of imported, artisanal chocolate; a lovely parting gift left for each guest to enjoy after his or her treatment.





*Above:
Raised planting beds on the
Waldorf's rooftop garden
and Culinary Director &
Chef David Garcelon plants
seedlings atop the Waldorf*

After a morning at the spa, lunch at the famed Peacock Alley is a splendid way to segue into afternoon. Sitting adjacent from the chiming tower clock in the main lobby, Peacock Alley is an inimitable New York tradition where people watching is a time honored tradition and a chilled glass of Sauvignon Blanc is the perfect accompaniment to an apple festooned Waldorf salad. For hardier fare, the Bull and Bear Prime Steakhouse is favored by those who love a well-mixed martini and a menu designed to satiate even the most passionate carnivore. If an omelet served to you while lounging in the welcoming softness of a Waldorf bed defines your idea of luxury dining, you can order room service from the hotel that invented the concept.

“One of the things that makes dining at the Waldorf such a signature experience is our rooftop garden. The garden gives us some really wonderful, special ingredients to work with,” explains Culinary Director & Chef David Garcelon as he presents dessert.

In his hand, a slice of warm pumpkin cake finished with plump berries, a spray of fresh cut blooms and a sweet, dark amber drizzle; the latter being a gift from the bees who make their home – and their honey – atop the hotel. “Having access to our own fresh herbs, flowers and honey lets us use our imagination. It inspires us to get creative with the menus.”

While the rooftop gardens are not normally open to the public, private tours may be arranged upon request for VIPs and guests of the Towers. A privilege not to be missed, a tour of the Waldorf's garden affords stunning views and a signature charm provided by the hotel's apiaries, their collection of seasonal herbs and a cacophony of brilliant blooms.

From bees to blooms to bespoke luxury... with the Waldorf at their doorstep, it would seem that New Yorkers short on time and long on desire to get away from it all needn't travel further than Park Avenue.