

World's Best Suites



Le Meurice



ONE OF THE CITY OF LIGHT'S MOST PRECIOUS JEWELS LIES DEEP IN THE HEART OF HISTORIC PARIS. In the Vendôme neighborhood – just steps from the Louvre Museum and opposite the Tuileries gardens – the Hotel Le Meurice (dorchestercollection.com) embodies French sophistication in the art of elegant living. Its tradition of excellence was begun in the 18th century by Calais postmaster Augustin Meurice, who was keen to cater to British tourists on the continent wishing to find all the comfort and services to which they had become accustomed. As a result, Le Meurice was born. This was the start of a long, brilliant history.

The hotel was opened during the Restoration at 332, rue Saint-Honoré. In 1835, the hotel moved to 228, rue de Rivoli and remains in that particularly fine location, where it has welcomed monarchs, aristocrats, artists, and writers. From the Prince of Wales to the King of Montenegro, and Alfonso XIII to the Maharajah of Jaipur, the most powerful men of the day have been delighted by the highly Parisian charms of Le Meurice. Ever since, its story has been written in letters of gold – one of opulence and exceptional beauty maintained by architect Charles Jouffre, the man behind the decor of the great lobby of the Paris Opéra Garnier, who, in 2008, brought the style of an 18th century residence to the luxury hotel, giving it a unique image tied to its rich, prestigious past.

The hotel has 118 rooms and 42 suites – one of the most extensive collection of suites in Paris. The greatest is the Belle Etoile Royal Suite on the top floor. At 275 square meters, it is inspired by the aesthetics of the 19th century, opening onto a private panoramic terrace that provides one of the most unforgettable views of Paris anywhere. Renovated in 2012, the three Presidential suites, styled to reflect 18th century tastes, offer a unique view of the Tuileries Garden. Among the woodwork and silks, antique books, and 19th century paintings of these temples of excellence, time seems to be on hold. The artist Salvador Dalí himself drew inspiration for his surrealist works there, staying in one of the Presidential suites for a month every year for more than three decades. Today, the Spaniard's genius lingers like a note suspended in the air of the hotel – Le Dalí restaurant's surrealist decor is crowned by a huge Ara Starck canvas, all in ochre and gold.

Between its stone walls, Le Meurice continues to write its legend, enriched by the histories of those who keep it alive, a legend inscribed in the ink of dreams. ●



“An unforgettable experience is a stay that went so smoothly that you can only remember all those fantastic moments shared. At Le Meurice, you can find it in the elegance, harmony, and prestige of the hotel, but also in the flawless service provided by our armada of attentive and devoted staff. Everything is pretty much a question of tact when it comes to such a high standard. We seem to always improvise with ease, but the truth is that every detail is anticipated and synchronized. In any case, our top priority is to offer our guests the best experiences ever in terms of location, ambiance, tailor-made services, cuisine, and constant innovation. And to make sure our guests feel comfortable and keep precious memories of their stay with us, we try to always figure out the purpose of their visit. This helps us to meet their expectations.

Excellence is our motto, and to me luxury is beyond wealth; it is more subtle and elegant – the absolute opposite of ostentatious. Endless personalization and true generosity are indeed indivisible from this very subjective affinity; still, what we praise most at Le Meurice is its poetry. Luxury is an emotion: the unexpected, the authentic, the invisible; the height of it would be to try and control time while fully seizing the moment.

The whole point of hospitality is to host your guests as you would do at home, with the same special attention to detail and the sum of all details constituting a whole: bespoke treatment, floral arrangements, olfactory signature. What works for me is catering to everybody's sense of pleasure: the guests' pleasure at being pampered and looked after, and ours at delivering outstanding experiences and service.”

-Franka Holtmann, General Manager

The façade of Le Meurice (top left); a Presidential Suite bedroom (top right) the Belle Etoile suite terrace (bottom left)