

TATLER®

January 2026

ROYAL
SPECIAL

HRH
*The
Duchess
of Kent*
1933-2025

EXCLUSIVE:
TATLER GOES INSIDE
PALACE CIRCLES



TATLER[®]

A large, multi-masted sailing boat with white sails is the central focus of the image. The boat is on a body of water, and the sails are partially unfurled. The background shows a sunset or sunrise with a warm, golden light. The boat has a white hull and a wooden deck. The sails are a light beige color. The water is calm, and the sky is a mix of orange and blue.

TRAVEL GUIDE 2026

THE 101 BEST HOTELS IN THE WORLD




 TATLER
AWARD-WINNER
2026
WALDORF ASTORIA New York, USA

You could reel off the lyrics to Madonna's 'Vogue' for just a few of the Waldorf's distinguished guests (Garbo and Monroe, Dietrich and DiMaggio... Lauren, Katharine and Lana, too.) After eight years of restoration, at an alleged price tag of nearly £1.5 billion, the 1931 building has been returned to its Gilded Age elegance. Now, Peacock Alley, once the promenade of New York's high society, glitters like never before: open and light-filled, with its fabled Peacock Clock. (This timepiece, commissioned by Queen Victoria in 1893, was later acquired by the Astor family for the hotel.) There are treasures everywhere, such as the Steinway piano bought for the use of Cole Porter, who lived at this Park Avenue address and composed some of his greatest works within the hotel walls. (It's said he ordered a pitcher of martinis to his suite every day.) For daytime glamour, head to Lex Yard, a showpiece of art-deco élan that has become *the* place for lunch; they do a signature chicken two ways: in a divine salad, followed by the most tender roast. But come evening, you're securely cosseted in a supremely comfortable bed; from your window, New York stretches out in all its restless beauty, the skyline twinkling like the chandelier above. *Doubles from £1,141* (waldorfastorianewyork.com).

Peacock Alley at the Waldorf Astoria – once the favourite haunt of Manhattan's high society – serves up fashionable seafood towers and lobster rolls



Taylor-made

Hotels made legends by the divas who checked in – from Taylors Elizabeth and Swift, via Garbo and Monroe

The Hôtel Plaza Athénée Royal Suite with Louis XVI-style fittings is a masterclass in Parisian grandeur

**HÔTEL PLAZA ATHÉNÉE Paris, France**

'That view of Portofino was on my mind when you called me at the Plaza Athénée.' So sang Taylor Swift on her hit 'Elizabeth Taylor'. (Her subject spent six months living at the latter with Richard Burton.) And there's no question: for romance – and drama – you want to be in the hotel's Eiffel Haute Couture Suite, standing on your geranium-planted balcony and cradling a perfectly chilled glass of Philipponnat Royale Réserve Rosé. Beneath the statement chandeliers, everything takes on a glittering sheen. The Steinway's open and ready to play, the beluga caviar on ice, and you're surrounded by hundreds of roses and bouquets of gardenias (Liz Taylor's favourite flowers). But everything at this establishment speaks of passion, especially Le Relais Plaza restaurant, an art deco jewel that provided the backdrop for Marlene Dietrich's affair with French actor Jean Gabin. Today, a new Jean – Imbert – has joined its hall of fame as the new star chef, delivering a menu of utterly delicious French classics, such as the tenderest beef fillet. *Doubles from £1,394* (dorchestercollection.com).

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