

THE NEW YORK PALACE HOTEL

After a \$140m renovation, the Madison Avenue monster is back at its finest

ven when self-anointed, living up to the moniker of "palace" in a city like New York is a daunting charge. Prior to our arrival, we'll admit to being a little intrigued as to whether the famed Madison Avenue establishment could match its palatial billing.

Setting foot in the hotel's entrance, however, a first glance at the decadent reception area and swooping gold staircase beyond, served to instantly allay any

scepticism we might have had; no American hubris to be found here, folks, the New York Palace is special.

Today, guests can enjoy the legendary hotel at its most polished, with an allencompassing \$140-million renovation project finishing only last year. The Palace has added a host of distinctive modern design elements throughout the entire building, lending its timelessly handsome form a slick, 21st-century relevance.

For an added level of luxury on your stay, we'd recommend The Towers,



an exclusive arm of the New York Palace with more than a dozen floors housing rooms big enough to host an indoor volleyball match.

But while extra space is always a nice indulgence, it's the panoramic view of the city that each of these suites offers that serves as the real reason to plump for an upgrade. Thanks to those modernist touch-ups we mentioned, you can now enjoy this spectacular backdrop from your bed, courtesy of a tablet-style remote controller to command the shutters and lights to do your bidding.

Staying in New York, for lunch and dinner you'd justifiably feel compelled to lose yourself in the city's excellent restaurant scene (for some expert guidance, consult the hotel's concierge), but, providing you're up in time and after an early snack, we would encourage sampling the light breakfast menu in the Palace's adjoining Pomme Palais patisserie.

Alternatively, there's everything from lobster pearl pasta or buttermilk pancakes on offer via room service, should you want a meal in the comfort of your suite before planning your work day – or assault on the 5th Avenue shops.

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