

BAZAAR^{Harper's}

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Travel: The Bazaar A-List Hotels

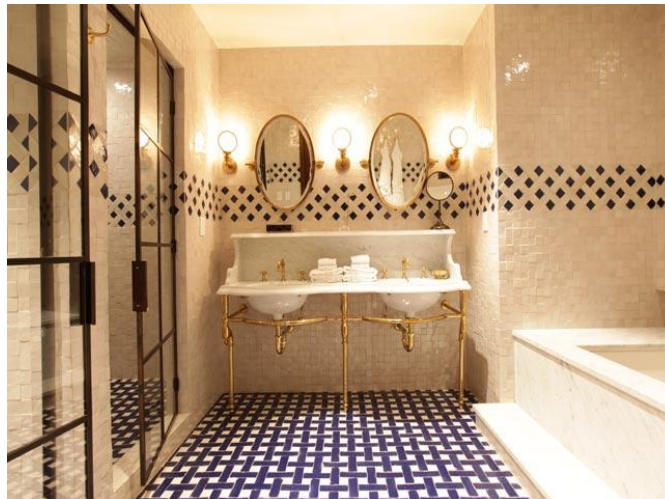
By Caroline Lewis



THE MARK HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY

Live the Upper East Side dream at the Mark, a sleek, deco gem whose excellent concierge will source sold-out tickets for the neighbouring Met and Frick galleries. Interior designer Jacques Grange, whose clients have included Valentino and Caroline of Monaco, is responsible for the atmosphere of quiet luxury. Dine chez chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten, whose food is as famed as the hotel's clientele. A Frédéric Fekkai salon and John Lobb shoeshine kiosk mean that from head to toe you will be as glossy as the hotel.

The Mark (+1 212 744 4300), from about £370 a night in a Superior Courtyard Queen Room.



THE GREENWICH HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY

The dimly lit drawing-room at Robert de Niro's 88-room hotel is perfect for going incognito in Tribeca, minutes from more shopping and nightlife than you could hope to conquer in one trip. Each room is unique, with oriental treasures and Moroccan-tiled bathrooms. The hotel is also home to that rare New York luxury – a pool – part of a bamboo spa building constructed, nail-free, by Japanese craftsmen. Velvet sofas, a roaring fireplace and packed bookshelves are reserved for guests, and alfresco exclusivity is offered in the flower-filled courtyard.

The Greenwich Hotel (+1 212 941 8900), from about £340 a room a night.



MANDARIN ORIENTAL, NEW YORK CITY

Float above New York City in the Mandarin Oriental's Suite 5000, launched in October. Sprawling across the hotel's 50th floor, this three-bedroom apartment has unparalleled views of Central Park and the Hudson. With floor-to-ceiling windows and Eastern decor, it provides a tranquil refuge from the frenzy of the streets. A dining table for 10 and contemporary art collection curated by the city's top gallerists make the space especially cosy and homely for visiting stars.

Mandarin Oriental (+1 212 805 8800), from £535 a room a night B&B; about £20,000 a night in Suite 5000.



HOTEL BEL-AIR, LOS ANGELES

Where the jetset stay in LA, the Caribbean and New York, as seen in the new February issue of Bazaar
The swan lake, the spa's signature caviar massage and the priceless works of art – they're all still here, but the Hotel Bel-Air, like so many of its clients, has had a discreet facelift. Little wonder that locals put up guests here, and treat the hotel bar as an extension of their own homes. Wolfgang Puck's courtyard restaurant is where the cognescenti brunch, and the concierge can pull strings to get you a reservation at Puck's other restaurant in town, Spago. The atmosphere of old Hollywood is so tangible that you almost expect Marilyn Monroe to be dipping her toes in the pool – for it was here that Bert Stern photographed her for that last iconic shoot.

Hotel Bel-Air (+1 310 472 1211), from about £310 a room a night.



FOUR SEASONS LOS ANGELES AT BEVERLY HILLS, LOS ANGELES

Located a short drive from the Dolby Theatre (home of the Oscars ceremony), the Four Seasons is the ultimate destination for Hollywood insiders to prepare for awards season. You are bound to rub shoulders with major players in the marble lobby, which is dominated by a bouquet so large it resembles an installation. Work out in the shaded outdoor gym, or head to the spa, which leads out to the rooftop pool with views over Beverly Hills.

Four Seasons Los Angeles at Beverly Hills (+1 310 786 2227), from about £310 a room a night.



BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL, LOS ANGELES

Sweeping up the hotel's red carpet, you feel you've really 'arrived' at this Tinseltown temple, now rated the deal-making epicentre of LA. Tables are studded with actors and agents in the Fountain Coffee Room, Polo Lounge or the poolside Cabana Cafe, where no cameras are allowed, so A-listers can kick back. Early risers head to the pool to bag their choice of music piped underwater to accompany lengths, before climbing out at the feet of... well, maybe Jack Nicholson. Corridors wallpapered with the palm-print logo lead to rooms with marble bathrooms. The hotel shop sells Charlotte Olympia wedges and as many logoed beach towels as you can stuff in a suitcase.

Beverly Hills Hotel, (+1 310 276 2251), from about £400 a room a night.



JAMAICA INN, JAMAICA

Glamour, classic colonial design and total privacy define Jamaica Inn. Marilyn Monroe and Arthur Miller toasted their honeymoon here, and Teddy the barman – still serving a mean martini at the Beach Bar after 54 years – has fond memories of Noël Coward and Katharine Hepburn. The property also includes cottages, which are dotted around the cove: the White Suite, on its own peninsula with a pool, sundeck and breathtaking views, remains the jet-set's home from home.

Jamaica Inn (+876 974 2514), from about £210 a room a night; from about £1,360 a night in the White Suite.



MONTPELIER PLANTATION AND BEACH, NEVIS

Nevis is not especially easy to reach – and thank heavens for that, for if the island were better connected, it might have been ruined long ago. Visitors must fly to St Kitts and take a ferry – not a long trip, but enough to preserve Nevis as the same exclusive haven it was when Princess Diana came here with her sons, in 1992, to escape the media. Take a guided tour of the rainforest on the (dormant) volcano's slopes, or join other guests in a lazy game of cricket on the hotel's private beach.

Seven nights at Montpelier Plantation & Beach costs from £1,389 a person B&B in a Premier Room, including return British Airways flights from Gatwick and ferry transfers, with ITC Classics (01244 355 527).



ROSEWOOD LITTLE DIX BAY, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

A benchmark for eco-conscious resorts when founded by Laurance Rockefeller on the BVI's Virgin Gorda in 1964, Rosewood Little Dix Bay celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Guests can catch Rafael Nadal in action at the World Team Tennis Legends Camp. The main draws for models and actresses keen to hone their curves are the state-of-the-art gym and retreats run by the fitness guru Frank Baptiste.

Rosewood Little Dix Bay (+1 284 495 5555), from £385 a room a night.