

# Cognoscenti magazine

Because life is short

## FOUR SEASONS GEORGE V PARIS, FRANCE

Built in 1928, **Four Seasons George V Paris** is one of the world's most beautiful hotels. Superb Art Deco touches appear throughout, mixed with more classical design notions. The gorgeous hotel lobby features a marvellous floor of inlaid marble, a glittering crystal chandelier, and stunning floral arrangements by Jeff Leatham. With all the



*Graceful, luxurious rooms*

lobby's exceptional opulence, this is merely a hint of the seductive delights that await guests within. And then, there is the hotel's rightly famous restaurant, **Le Cinq** (see our review of the restaurant in this issue).

Because the hotel is Y-shaped, guest rooms feel private and they offer airy vistas. Traffic bustles up and down the Avenue Georges V, but behind double windows in rooms facing the inner courtyard with its ring of magnolia trees, things are quiet. This is indeed "a haven in the city," as Catherine Martel, Director of Public Relations, describes it.

At the George V, there are no "cookie-cutter" rooms; each one is a little different, even as they share color schemes of gold, green or lavender. Apart from amenities like 24-hour room service, 24-hour concierge service, and 24-hour clothes pressing (!), there

are other quality touches. Ultra-high speed internet access is available in-room, with equipment that permits guests with laptop computers to receive wireless internet service anywhere in the hotel—they can take their laptop downstairs for a drink in the appealing art deco bar and still be on line.

The spa is as lavish as it gets. Here, details are mainly classical and occidental rather

than mystical and eastern: the walls show rural scenes in royal blue, while the most favored treatment is the signature facial. The relaxation room, with its private lounging sofas separated by gauze curtains (and headphones with a choice of soothing jazz, classical, or new age music), is French refinement at its best. Eastern influences are felt a little more in the minimalist Shiatsu massage room, where the massage table is a large square futon. Around the teak-floored indoor pool deck adjoining the spa, disposable bathing suits are available for those who may have forgotten to pack their bathing suit—a thoughtful touch.

Visiting this Four Seasons property, one senses that *this* is a corporate culture wholly devoted to attaining true excellence in hospitality. The hotel's exceptional staff-to-guest ratio of 650 staff for just 240 guest rooms ensures that each guest's wishes are thoroughly

looked after. When a visiting **Cognoscenti Magazine** editor asked a hotel employee to direct him to a bathroom, the employee immediately responded “But of

*The Four Seasons George V situated on the swanky George V Avenue in the 8th district. Highly recommended for its dedication to quality in every respect.*



course!” and led the way. It would be easy to parody such a reaction—after all, why should an employee appear so delighted at addressing so mundane a request? Yet this is the essence of hospitality itself: making guests feel that it is the staff’s genuine pleasure to fulfill *any* request. The Four Seasons George V Paris receives our highest recommendation.

This article was written by Nicole Medvecky-Riggs and Jeffrey Riggs, Contributing Editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*. Photos courtesy of *Four Seasons George V*.

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