

THE MARK

Tatler Travel Guide

1 December 2024





The vast Penthouse terrace at The Mark was once turned into a private ice rink

THE MARK

New York, USA

The Mark is very *Bonfire of the Vanities*; if you had to imagine the definitive lair of a Master of the Universe, it would be its fabled Penthouse, officially the largest hotel suite in the USA. Split over two levels, with five bedrooms and six bathrooms, it has a 2,500sqft terrace that overlooks Central Park. As for private dining, order in caviar on ice from Caviar Kaspia while the bellboys hotfoot it from the lobby to the lift to your room, pushing golden trolleys that bear the fruits of your hard day's shopping. (The suites are cream boudoirs with marshmallow-soft beds and deep, deep bathtubs.) The all-day restaurant by Jean-Georges is a fine-dining spectacle, where you can relish crispy salmon sushi and black truffle pizzas. If you need to recalibrate, there are spa therapists on hand, as well as immaculate blowdries at the Frédéric Fekkai Salon. If you want to make an excursion, avail yourself of the in-house chauffeurs; or for lower-key guests, the charming black-and-white bicycles. Truly, nothing here is too much trouble. *Doubles from £998* (themarkhotel.com).



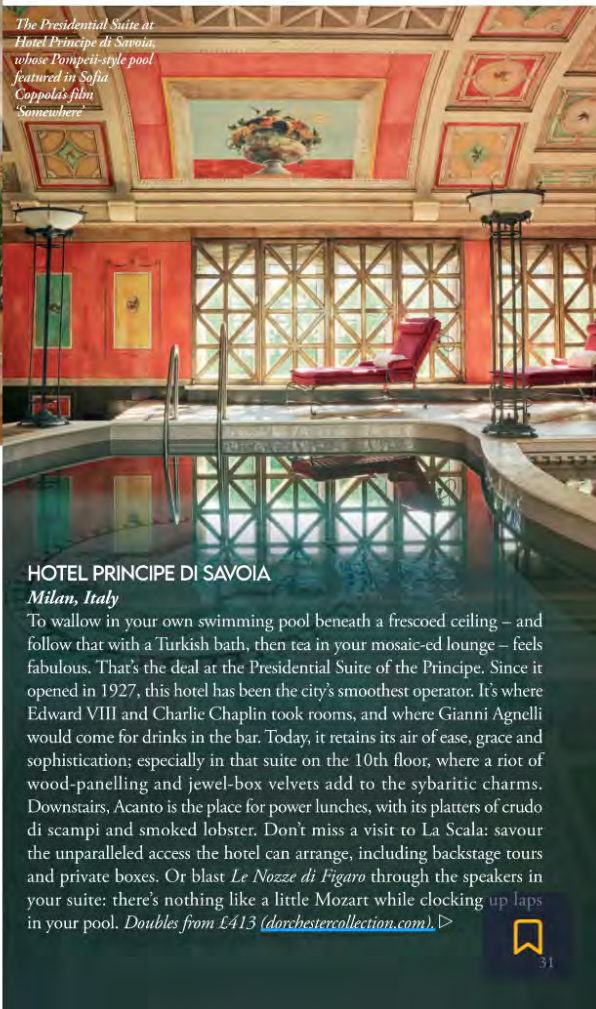
Filled with antiques and original artworks, Hôtel Plaza Athénée's Royal Suite looks onto the Eiffel Tower

HÔTEL PLAZA ATHÉNÉE

Paris, France

It doesn't get more sublime than standing on your geranium-adorned balcony, cradling a perfectly chilled glass of Philipponnat Royale réserve rosé, and taking in the nighttime view of the Eiffel Tower from the sprawling silken elegance of the Haute Couture Eiffel Suite. Adorned with such statement design touches as chandeliers and a Steinway, this is a spoiling base for the aesthete longing for comfort and sparkle. Or book into the gilded Royal Suite, the largest suite in Paris, designed by Marie-José Pommereau. Since 1947, the hotel has maintained a close connection with the house of Dior, whose namesake founder showed his first collection here. That bond is manifest in the hotel's Dior spa, where *mesdames qui déjeunent* go for deep-tissue massage and complexion resurrection. The Plaza Athénée is perfect in every detail – especially the food, with superstar chef Jean Imbert in charge. The most lavish option is the turbo: garnished *à la Dieppoise*, studded with shells, expertly de-boned and drizzled with just the right amount of buttery sauce, it alone is worth a trip. But nothing can prepare you for the desserts, which are fit for the court of Versailles, and best enjoyed as room service with a view. *Doubles from £1,375* (dorchestercollection.com).

TATLER



The Presidential Suite at Hotel Principe di Savoia, whose Pompeii-style pool featured in Sofia Coppola's film 'Somewhere'

HOTEL PRINCIPE DI SAVOIA

Milan, Italy

To wallow in your own swimming pool beneath a frescoed ceiling – and follow that with a Turkish bath, then tea in your mosaic-ed lounge – feels fabulous. That's the deal at the Presidential Suite of the Principe. Since it opened in 1927, this hotel has been the city's smoothest operator. It's where Edward VIII and Charlie Chaplin took rooms, and where Gianni Agnelli would come for drinks in the bar. Today, it retains its air of ease, grace and sophistication; especially in that suite on the 10th floor, where a riot of wood-panelling and jewel-box velvets add to the sybaritic charms. Downstairs, Acanto is the place for power lunches, with its platters of crudo di scampi and smoked lobster. Don't miss a visit to La Scala: savour the unparalleled access the hotel can arrange, including backstage tours and private boxes. Or blast *Le Nozze di Figaro* through the speakers in your suite: there's nothing like a little Mozart while clocking up laps in your pool. *Doubles from £415* (dorchestercollection.com). ▸

