



INTERCONTINENTAL®
PARIS LE GRAND

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THE LEGENDARY CAFÉ OF PARISIAN LIFE

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In 2021, the fully renovated InterContinental Paris Le Grand is reopening to the public. Its restaurant, the Café de la Paix, also returns to the Parisian scene, flaunting meticulous renovations of its famous decor which is listed on the French heritage list. Across from the Opéra Garnier, these fashionable and iconic Parisian venues have been ambassadors of the finest French hospitality and style since their inauguration nearly 160 years ago.



01 INTERCONTINENTAL

PARIS LE GRAND

Today, the Grand Hôtel's updated confort and modern feel can compete with the world's most elite hotels. The past months of renovations have worked their magic, subtly transforming the hotel, while reviving its trademark Napoleon III spirit, a point of pride and notoriety around the globe.

At the helm, architect and decorator Pierre-Yves Rochon continues to accompany this Parisian monument acquired by InterContinental in 1984. Called on for the first time in 1985 to draft renovation plans, Pierre-Yves Rochon focused straight away on bringing back the spirit and splendour of the place, especially by removing the false ceiling concealing the atrium's glass roof. In 2003, he undertook a second phase of work and, in 2021, he has completed his mission by giving the different categories of Grand Hôtel rooms a more residential, more charming ambiance, casting aside the imposing 'international hotel' feel.

This impression is heartily endorsed by Christophe Laure, General Manger of the InterContinental Paris Le Grand, proud to see this historic establishment, the very place where luxury hotel codes were invented, basking in renewed prestige. It now boasts a new, resolutely contemporary offer of 470 rooms, down from 458, over 6 kilometres of hallways and the addition of five newly-created suites: three Signature and two Duplex suites. Designed like ultra chic Parisian apartments, each one harbours a unique decorative style and offers breathtaking views of Paris. The Grand Hôtel's four 'historic' Presidential suites have retained their classic decor—registered as Monument Historique for the first floor suite—in a fully renovated version showcasing exquisite craftsmanship.

←
GLASS ROOF
©Jérôme Galland



→
CLUB LOUNGE
©Jérôme Galland

The treasures of this hotel's heritage are like new once again, such as the fabulous Salon Opéra, a registered Monument Historique and stage to the most beautiful receptions a city like Paris can offer. Now, the time has come to push open the doors, enjoy afternoon tea in winter garden sunshine, (re)discover the inventive cuisine of Chef Laurent André served at Café de la Paix. Or indulge yourself in the Club Lounge, the epitome of elegance and refinement, created on the first floor for members of the InterContinental Club. Delight in the unique sensations of this newly restored Grand Hôtel, stepping into the glamorous and spirited atmosphere of a contemporary Belle Époque.





02 CAFÉ DE LA PAIX

THE LEGENDARY CAFÉ OF PARISIAN LIFE

Like the Grand Hôtel at the same address, the Café de la Paix reopens to the public following a full programme of renovations led by Pierre-Yves Rochon.

The decorator dedicated his talents to reviving the panache of this Parisian institution inaugurated in 1862. The Napoleon III decor had been miraculously preserved over the decades, protected for the past forty years by its status as a registered heritage site.

Using the fluted columns and the painted and gilded ceilings as his guide, Pierre-Yves Rochon chose a harmonious, subdued palette of greens and cream. This colour scheme is highlighted by the dark wood of Louis XVI- and Empire-style furniture, green velvet bench seats and myriad candelabras whose sparkle and silhouettes enhance the festive ambiance.

Push open the door on Boulevard des Capucines to enter the restaurant and realm of Chef Laurent André. Originally from the Jura, trained by Alain Chapel and Alain Ducasse, he has created a lively menu featuring classic French recipes, starting with the perennial stars of Café de la Paix: French onion soup and sole—meunière or broiled—deboned and served tableside. The pastry team has also taken a page out of the venue's history, adding her special touch to iconic endings such as Caramelized Mille-Feuille and Opéra cake.

Around the corner, on the Place de l'Opéra, Café de la Paix invites you to sit inside or out on the terrace to enjoy a selection of light fare and a beverage menu. Starting with breakfast for InterContinental Paris Le Grand guests, and finishing with a late after-show dinner for clients who have been to the Opera or the nearby Olympia concert hall, Café de la Paix is ready to reclaim its time-honoured place in the whirlwind of Parisian life.

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CAFÉ DE LA PAIX
©Jérôme Galland



03 AND THEN THERE WAS

THE GRAND HÔTEL

Around 1860, Paris began dreaming of a great Exposition Universelle d'Art et Industrie that would bring it up to a par with London. Millions of guests were expected, and new hotels would have to be built.

Two brothers, Emile and Isaac Pereire, had made their fortunes building railways between Paris and Saint-Germain-en-Laye, then Versailles. Inflamed with World's Fair excitement, they set their sights on opening "the biggest hotel in Europe", a venture encouraged by the Emperor Napoleon III.

The property was marked out and registered in the new urban plan drawn up by Baron Haussmann for this new, festive Paris built around shows and entertainment. On one side of the lot, the future Imperial Academy of Music and Dance, which would later become the Palais Garnier, on the other, Boulevard des Capucines and Rue Scribe. The architect Alfred Armand wasted no time drawing up blueprints. He had already designed a number of train stations for the Pereire brothers, but this time he found himself working with unprecedented proportions.

On a wave of Belle Epoque euphoria, its promoters imagined the construction of a 1000-room hotel with 45 salons... before settling on a more realistic figure of 800 rooms, all equipped with a fireplace but not necessarily a bathroom. The four floors of guest rooms totalled over five kilometres of hallways, all wide enough for two elegant crinolines to pass each other comfortably. The 5th floor was reserved for employee quarters.

→
ARCHIVES
Grand Hôtel et Opéra



Grand Hôtel. Patio



Restaurant à la carte

←

ARCHIVES

Grand Hôtel et Opéra

Work on the hotel began in April 1861, while construction of the future opera house continued to be delayed. Workers came and went in shifts around the clock, and one year later, on 5 May 1862, the hotel was inaugurated by the Empress Eugenie herself, who, on the same occasion, crossed the street to lay the cornerstone of the neighbouring Music Academy. The hotel was originally to be called Hôtel de la Paix in honour of the “Second Empire peace” that Napoleon III hoped would be eternal. But the name had already been claimed by another Parisian hotel. No matter, long live the Grand Hôtel and its Café de la Paix! Carriages and prominent guests arrived at 12, Boulevard des Capucines and were dazzled by the sumptuous decor.

Their throes of admiration culminated in the grand ballroom—today’s Salon Opéra—whose dome soared 14 metres high, an enchantment of gilding, arcades, caryatids and candelabras, created by the sculptor Aimé Millet. Some say that this magnificence served as inspiration to Charles Garnier, architect of the opera house and still, at the time, in the design phase of his masterpiece. Thus begins the adventure of the Grand Hôtel, which quickly became the in-place for artists, socialites and the who’s who of Paris, as well as the favourite residence for imminent international visitors to the City of Lights.



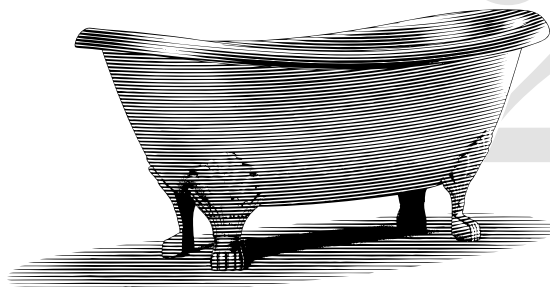
04 THE GRAND HÔTEL

IN TWELVE ANECDOTES

1

On 5 May 1862, the crème of Paris society attended the gala thrown for the inauguration of the Grand Hôtel and the cornerstone of the Paris opera house. Jacques Offenbach directed the orchestra which played excerpts from the Traviata.

The invitation read “Her majesty the Empress is requested to honour this party with her presence”. Escorted through the hotel on the arm of Emile Pereire, Eugenie exclaimed: “It’s just like home! I feel like I’m at Compiègne or Fontainebleau.”



When the Grand Hôtel opened, only 40 of its 800 rooms had a private bathroom. A paying “bathing establishment” was available to residents inside the hotel. Like a spa ahead of its time, guests could enjoy “hydrotherapy” and massages overseen by designated doctors. Baskets of firewood were also sold on every floor for use in the fireplaces found in each room.



3 Regular client of the Grand Hôtel, the writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle loved sitting on the Café de la Paix terrace to proofread the adventures of his famous detective herlock Holmes.

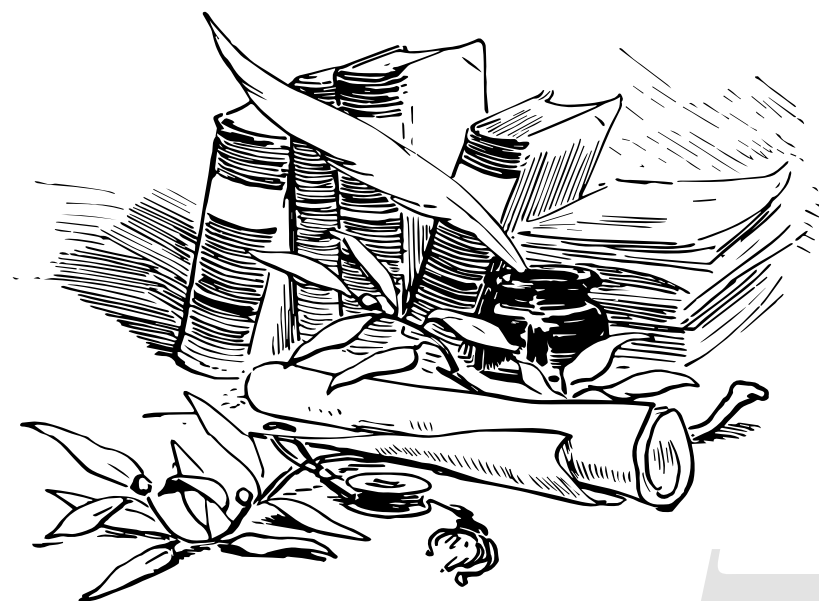
Showcase for the latest advances in terms of comfort, in 1865, the Grand Hôtel was one of the first hotels in Europe to be equipped with hydraulic lifts. Not only did they take guests safely up to their rooms, but—the ultimate in modern technology!— they brought them back down!

4 At the turn of the 20th century, the Grand Hôtel was a city inside a city, with its own booking agent, Thomas Cook travel agency, post office, wine cellar, black room for developing photographs, interpreter service, and more. Along the Boulevard des Capucines, Rue Scribe and Rue Auber, the hotel rented out spaces to luxury brands like the perfume maker Violet (today’s watch-maker Bucherer), the Escalier de Cristal decoration store and the Girard music shop.



6 On 9 December 1896, the art world celebrated Sarah Bernhardt, its favourite tragic actress, aged 52 at the time. The hotel’s Grand Ballroom was ready to welcome the 500 guests, while a blue velvet dais in the middle of the room awaited the heroine of the day. In the words of the Revue Illustrée reporter, she appeared at “midday three-quarters”, descending a spiral staircase “like a vine tossed in the wind”. Spectacular, the tone was set in the most beautiful theatre imaginable.





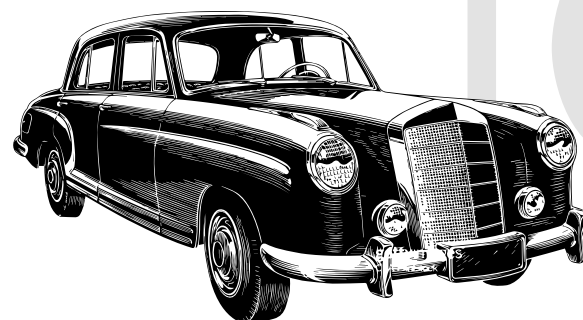
The first meal of the Goncourt Academy was held at the Grand Hôtel in February 1903. The illustrious group discussed awarding a prize to “a fictional work in prose published in the past year”, with the aim of “forcing the doors of fame”.

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On 11 November 1918, Georges Clemenceau, President of the Counsel, stood on the first floor balcony of the Grand Hôtel to watch the victory parade of French soldiers on the Grands Boulevards.

9

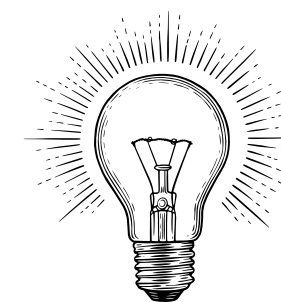
A magical place if ever there was one, the Grand Hôtel’s glass atrium was not part of the original building. During construction, this space was a courtyard accessible to horse-drawn carriages and automobiles which entered from Boulevard des Capucines to drop off their passengers. The decision was made in 1905 to transform the courtyard into a winter garden, covered with a 600 m2 coloured glass roof held in place with a steel frame. In consequence, the main hotel entrance was moved to Rue Scribe.



Believe it or not, the Salon Opéra nearly disappeared forever, sacrificed to the goddess of... automobiles. In the 1970s, plans were made to convert the ballroom into a five-storey car park, complete with helipad! André Malraux, French Minister of Culture at the time, blocked the project immediately by registering the Salon as a Monument Historique.

10

The Opera Garnier's opening ceremony took place on 5th January 1875. The facade was not enlightened the night of the opening. The Grand Hotel paid tribute to the Opera and lighted all its windows. The same night, Charles Garnier, received the cross of the Legion of Honour.



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At first, the building was named «Grand Hotel de la Paix» (The Grand Hotel of Peace). But, its designation is shortened to «Grand Hotel» to reflect its unique large size, standards and comfort.





05 PIERRE-YVES ROCHON

THE INTERIOR ARCHITECT'S VISION

WHAT WAS YOUR APPROACH TO THIS RENOVATION PROJECT?

This is my third mission at the Grand Hôtel over about 35 years. It's very unusual to be granted such long-term trust and I truly appreciate it. The first renovations were carried out in 1985. At that time, the building was in a terrible state. The 1970s turned their back on the Belle Époque style which they despised. With the exception of the Salon Opéra, the elements that give this architecture its panache had all been concealed beneath casings and false ceilings. Luckily for us, these elements could be uncovered and refurbished! The past three years of renovation works have focused on giving the biggest luxury hotel in Paris an optimum level of comfort and modern feel. Today, the Grand Hôtel offers a wide range of styles, legacies from various periods in its history.

HOW CAN THE GRAND HÔTEL REINVENT ITSELF IN 2021?

I thought of it as being the hotel of the Opéra, our prestigious neighbour. We are so lucky to enjoy one of the most beautiful views possible of this iconic monument of Belle Époque Paris. The perspectives of Charles Garnier's showpiece had never been a priority. Today, that has changed with the creation of three Signature suites and two Duplex suites designed as private apartments, each with unique, chic and very Parisian decoration. In one and the same room, you will find up to twenty different textiles. I like the idea of recovering a classic looking chair with a more contemporary fabric. And, talk about dreams come true, the bathtubs are angled so that you can admire the Opéra Garnier while taking your bath.



→
PIERRE-YVES ROCHON
Interior Architect

AND ITS FAMOUS SALONS?

Of course we didn't touch the registered Salon Opéra, but the Grand Hôtel has many other common areas, long corridors, passageways, small salons, etc. The idea was to update the whole venue featuring the Napoleon III style. Not reconstructing the building itself but imbuing it with the spirit using colours and patterns. The famous winter garden is brighter and fresher with a grouping of palm trees and lampposts and furniture made of noble materials; it is delightfully spacious. On the first floor, we have created the Club Lounge for premium InterContinental clientele. In a more intimate ambiance, the space is punctuated on one side by a series of works depicting the Empress Eugénie strolling through Parisian gardens and on the other by seven windows overlooking the atrium.

“ The past three years of renovation works have focused on giving the biggest luxury hotel in Paris an optimum level of comfort and modern feel.

The Grand Hôtel offers a wide range of styles, legacies from various periods in its history. ”

WHAT CHANGES DID YOU MAKE TO CAFÉ DE LA PAIX?

I feel so lucky to be able to work on such a venerable institution! The breakfast area has been rearranged by creating three live cooking stations. Café de la Paix is, and will always be, a legendary address, opening onto Boulevard des Capucines and Place de l'Opéra. By selecting colours and materials in a seamless historical continuum, we have moved the decor towards a fresher, more luminous style.



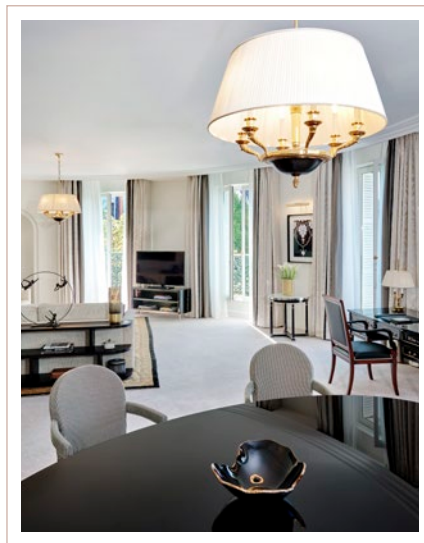


06 NEW SUITES

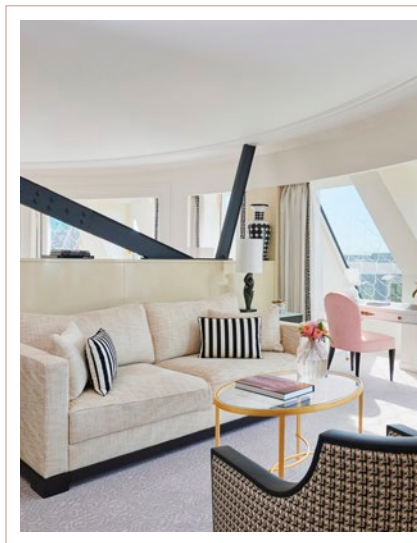
THE SPIRIT OF PARIS

Created by interior architect Pierre-Yves Rochon, these five, newly created accommodations symbolise the new face of the InterContinental Paris Le Grand. They are designed to be luminous apartments, each boasting a unique, resolutely chic and contemporary decor, even if Second Empire style can be read between the lines.





SUITE
THE PEARL



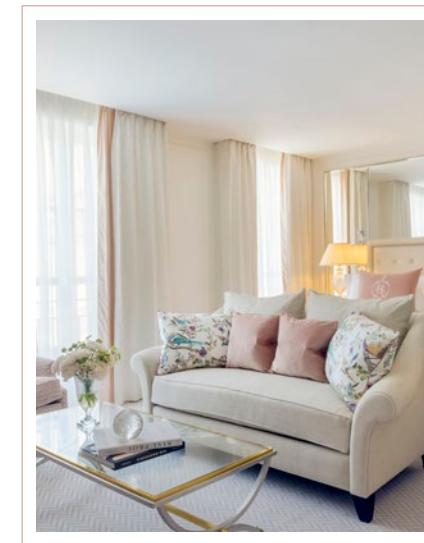
SUITE
LA PARISIENNE



SUITE
CHARLES GARNIER



SUITE
OPÉRA



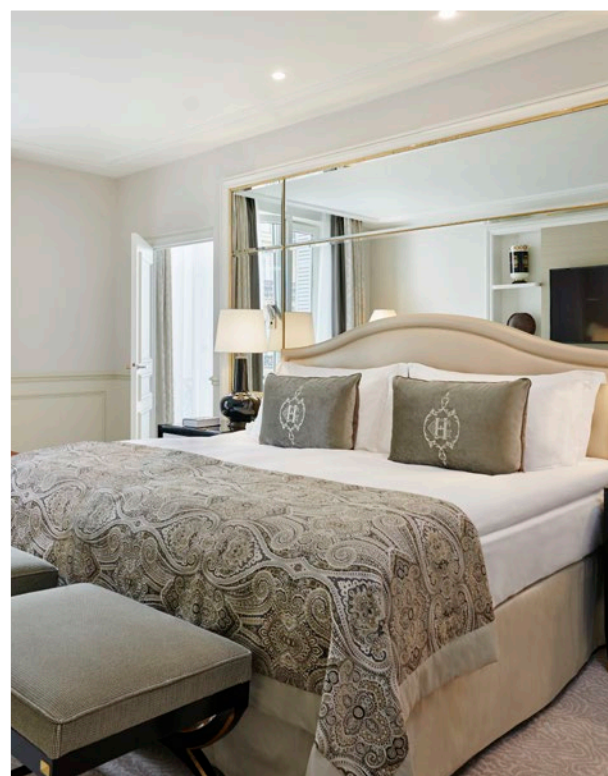
SUITE
EUGÉNIE





SUITE THE PEARL ↑

A harmony of black, white and taupe hold sway over this 150-m2 suite, reminiscent of a Haussmann-style apartment, whose living room and two bedrooms overlook Boulevard des Capucines. The prevailing jeweller's spirit, a nod to the nearby Place Vendôme, is enhanced by Empire and Art Deco style furniture. Lacquer and silk add their soft touch in this voluptuous, almost middle-eastern universe, a haven of tranquillity.



← SUITE LA PARISIENNE

Nestled under the eaves of the Grand Hôtel, La Parisienne suite has a cachet and light unlike any other, with its feminine decor ranging from tones of dusty rose and ivory to bold black highlights. Parisian fashion, so prevalent at the nearby Grands Magasins, is featured on La Parisienne wallpaper by Manuel Canovas in the dressing room. During the construction, the architects stripped a structural metal beam, giving this 100-m2 space an Eiffel Tower touch. All the more so when you look through the dormer windows that run the length of this suite: the view sweeps across the best of Paris, as if you were on the Eiffel Tower.

SUITE →
CHARLES GARNIER

Also tucked away under the roof, the Charles Garnier suite is a hymn to the architecture of the Paris opera house. The building's glorious silhouette draws our eyes like a magnet from the wide bay windows of this 130-m² apartment. Here, Pierre-Yves Rochon has downplayed the decoration and let in the light with a calming palette of whites and beiges, even for the furniture: a Saarinen table by Knoll, a Cassina armchair, Porta Romana lighting, a selection of contemporary objects that play counterpoint to perfection.



SUITE ↓
OPÉRA

This four-room suite offers both an interior view over the roofs of the Grand Hôtel, and an outside view of the Opéra Garnier. Keeping in step with its prestigious neighbour, the decoration features varying hues of celadon green and furniture designed for relaxing during an unforgettable Parisian stay.



← SUITE
EUGÉNIE

A tribute to the Empress who attended the inauguration of the Grand Hôtel in person in May 1862, the Eugenie Suite is on the hotel's 4th and 5th floors. Prepare yourself for a breathtaking view from one of the four bedrooms of the Duplex suite, a mansardé attic apartment on the Rue Auber side. You are greeted by Harmonie, one of Charles Gumery's two golden sculptures, standing sentinel at the Opéra Garnier entrance since 1869. This suite has the feel of a family home, with light tones of yellow and pink, a parquet floor and superb Art Deco banister.

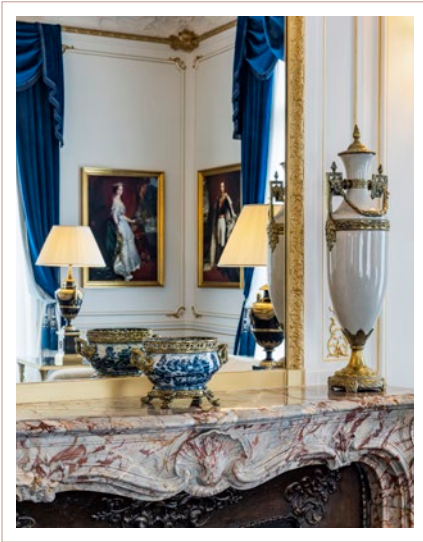


07 The Historic Suites

THE GREAT FRENCH TASTE

Inaugurated at the same time as the Grand Hôtel itself, these 120-m² suites comprised of a living room and two bedrooms enjoy the very best seats in the house, on the corner of Boulevard des Capucines and Palais Garnier. It provides all the excellence French taste has to offer, with a Pierre-Yves Rochon flair.

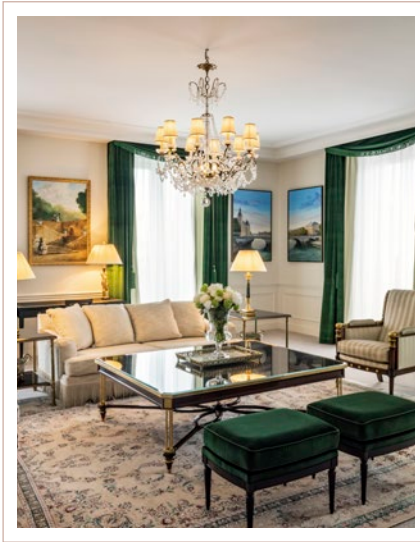




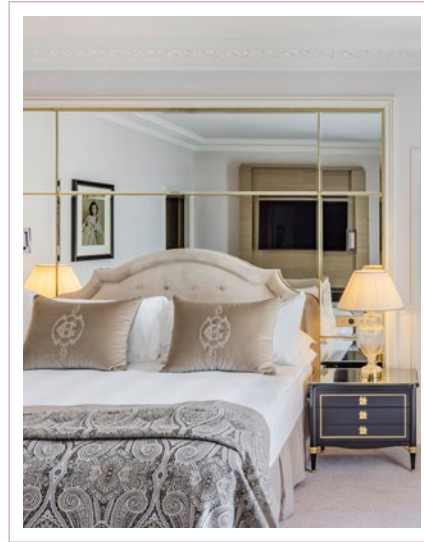
SUITE
IMPÉRIALE



SUITE
PRÉSIDENTIELLE



SUITE
DIPLOMATIQUE

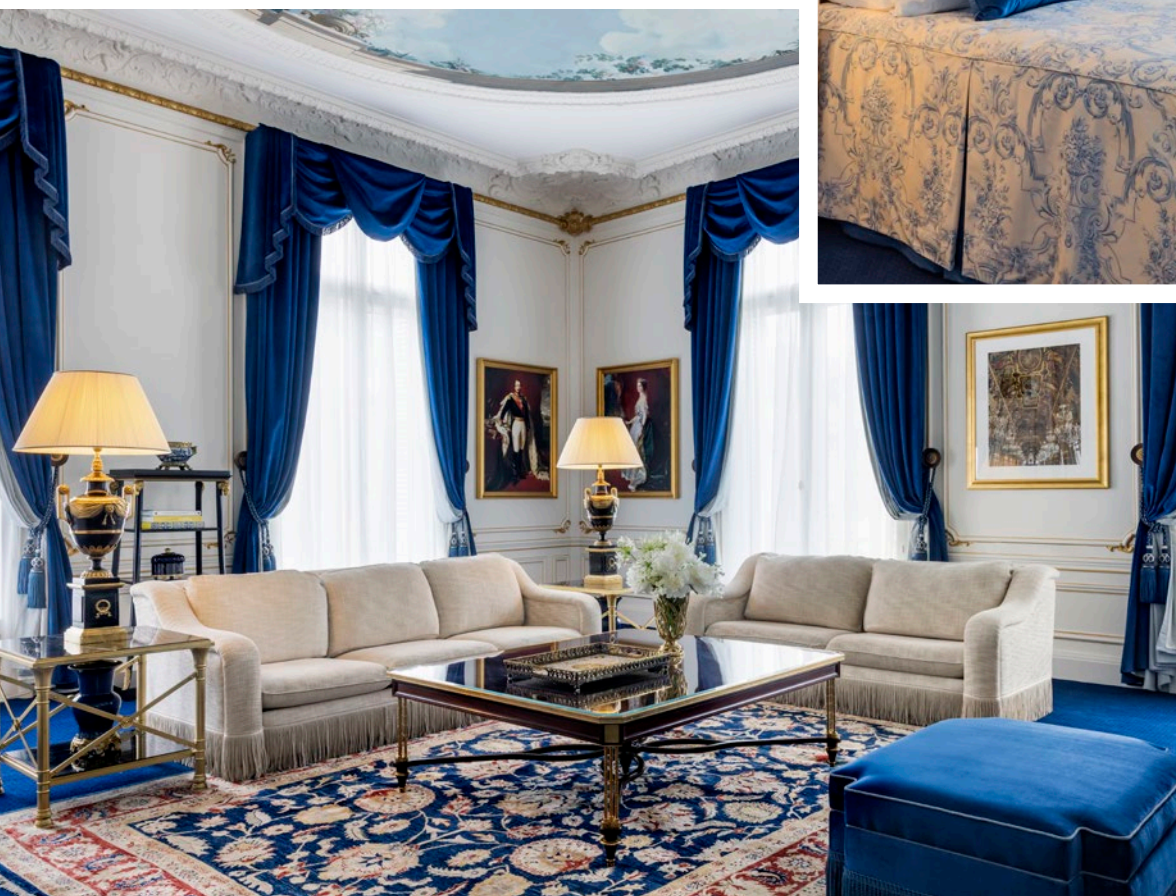


SUITE
SARAH BERNHARDT



SUITE →
IMPÉRIALE

This 1st floor suite is a showcase of historical decor, featuring a vast living room worthy of a royal castle. Everything is sumptuous, from the registered painted ceiling to the gilded mouldings around the portraits of Napoleon III and Eugenie, while the bedrooms prolong the decorative harmony of blue and gold.



SUITE
PRÉSIDENTIELLE ↓

Designed as a window onto Paris, its living room is decorated in shades of greige with two paintings representing views of the Alexandre III bridge over the Seine and the Grand Palais and, in the bedrooms, works depicting Opera performances. As in the three other Presidential suites, the bathroom adjoining the Master Bedroom exudes yesteryear charm with a modern touch. Details include a clawfoot bathtub and sink sunk into a custom-made varnished and lacquered wood vanity.





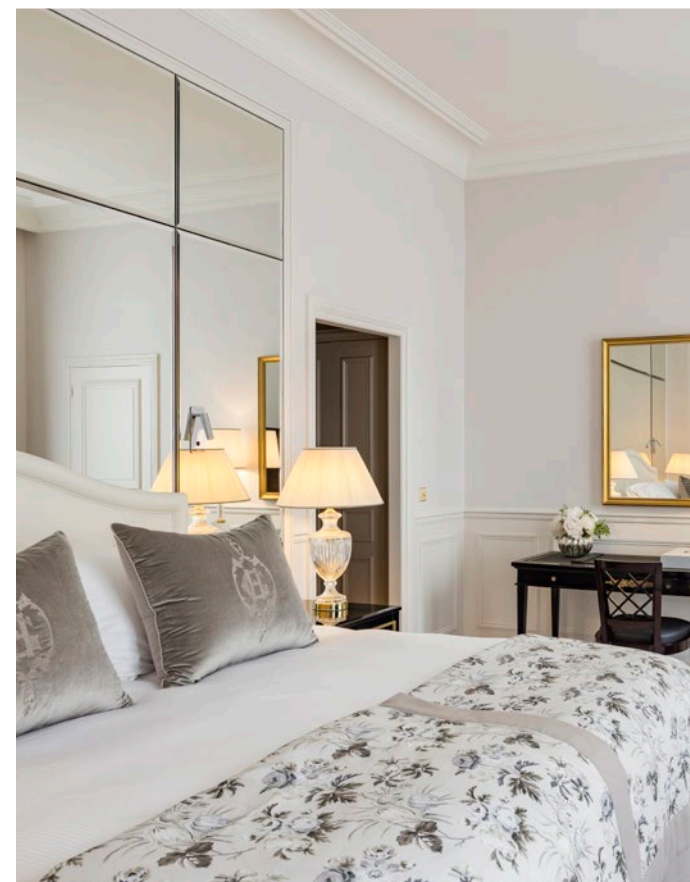
SUITE DIPLOMATIQUE ↑

Quintessence of Napoleon III style, the Diplomatic Suite makes majestic use of Empire Green, setting off the quality of its restored furniture and the series of grisaille paintings on the wall depicting Parisian institutions. Located on the 3rd floor, it is the perfect choice for clients needing maximum security and for delegations, who can stay in a series of connecting rooms.



← SUITE SARAH BERNHARDT

A tribute to the famous actress, a regular at the Grand Hôtel in its heyday, the Sarah Bernhardt suite reigns over the 4th floor. The somewhat theatrical leopard print entranceway leads into a beautiful beige and taupe colour scheme with black accents, celebrating the actress, unforgettable as the son of Napoleon I in L'Aiglon, with her portrait in a place of honour.





08 THE KEYS

OF INTERCONTINENTAL PARIS LE GRAND

90 SUITES INCLUDING:

4 HISTORIC PRESIDENTIAL SUITES
140 m², 2 bedrooms and a living room

5 SIGNATURE SUITES
Between 100 and 170 m², 1 to 2 rooms including 2 Duplex Suites:
229 m², 4 bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen

4 ROYAL SUITES
From 110 to 122 m², 2 bedrooms, a living room

4 AMBASSADOR SUITES
80 m², 1 bedroom and a living room

PRESTIGE SUITES
Between 42 and 57 m², 1 bedroom

JUNIOR SUITES
Between 38 and 53 m², 1 bedroom

DELUXE ROOMS, OPÉRA VIEW
Between 25 and 40 m²

EXECUTIVE ROOMS
Between 30 and 38 m²

CLUB ROOMS
Between 24 and 29 m²

SUPERIOR ROOMS
Between 23 and 28 m²

CLASSIC ROOMS
Between 18 and 23 m²

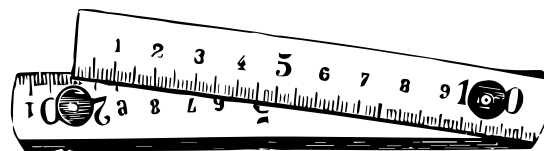


04 THE GRAND HÔTEL

IN NUMBERS

34 000 m²
hotel's total
area.

8,2 km
total length of hallways
leading to the 458
rooms.



375 m
total length
of facades.

1 265

record number
of guests for one night.

Given on 23 November 2018 for the
'Catherinettes and Nicolas' fashion event
by Christian Dior Couture, it was held
in the Salon Opéra and Salon Ravel
as well as the winter garden.







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