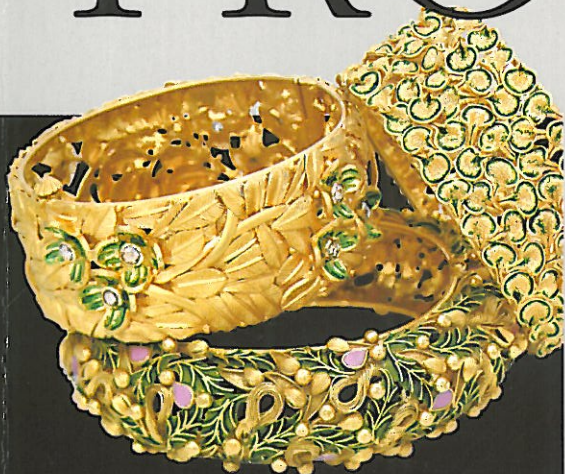


PROMENADE

FALL 2010



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new york in fall



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GLITZY, RITZY, AND JUST RIGHT: MADRID'S HOTEL RITZ

If you haven't heard of César Ritz (1850-1918), then you most likely haven't stayed in one "his" opulent, eponymous hotels. Nicknamed the "king of hoteliers, and hotelier to kings," Ritz was a formidable Swiss, and yes, you guessed it: the adjective "ritzy" was coined for him. After years as the master of London's venerable Savoy Hotel, he opened the Ritz in Paris, then the Ritz in London, and in 1910, under the prodding of King Alfonso III of Spain, the Ritz in Madrid. César would be justly proud of his namesake hotel, managed today by Orient-Express.

With a lobby dripping in ormolu and polished-to-reflection perfection marble, it promises, and delivers, old-world, cossetting care and world-class service and amenities. Not to mention fabulous food—no accident, since Ritz's partner-in-crime during his career was the celebrated French restaurateur, and arguably the father of modern French cuisine, Georges Auguste Escoffier.

The hotel's 137 rooms are all decorated differently. The legendary Spanish carpet manufacturer Real Fábrica de Tapices has supplied each room with its underfoot comfort and cushioning, determining the shades of the opulent wall coverings and textiles swathing the chambers in style and grace, exquisite counterpoint to the antiques, polished wooden paneling, fine porcelains, and crystal chandeliers. Even the laundry bags are classy—embroidered white piqué—and regular guests have sumptuous bathrobes custom-embroidered with their initials.

And regulars have been legion: Princess Grace and Prince Rainier came to honeymoon; it was here that the American heiress Barbara Hutton cavorted with toreros; kings and queens from just about every royal family tree have camped here as have Madonna and Plácido Domingo; Arthur Rubinstein and the Jonas Brothers; Salvador Dalí and Manolo Blahnik, not to mention Fidel Castro and Yassir Arafat.

It is no wonder that *Travel & Leisure* consistently names it to its Best Hotels of the World List, and that it is almost always included on the *Condé Nast Traveler's* Gold List.

And if history, cuisine, elegance, and service are not enough, the hotel is so centrally located, you'll fall out of bed and land in a Trifecta of Monumental Museums: Museo del Prado, the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, and the wonderful Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía. It's a short hop to the bucolic Retiro Park and to the famed Plaza Mayor. ritzmadrid.com — RJK

panoramic view, which, on a clear day, reaches 80 miles in each direction. Visitors may also enjoy the free changing exhibits in the lobby. Tickets to the 102nd floor observatory sold only upon arrival. Daily, 8am-2am; last elevator at 1:15. \$20; \$18 (seniors, 12-17); \$14 (6-11). 350 Fifth Ave. (34th St.), 212-736-3100; esbnyc.com

Grand Central Terminal — This international landmark masterpiece boasts a huge, dramatic sunken central room, lit by huge windows and ornamented by a whimsically designed ceiling depicting the constellations of the zodiac and a nostalgic information kiosk topped by an old clock set in the center of the main floor. Join the one-hour walking tours, Wed. at 12:30pm, sponsored by the Municipal Art Society; call 212-935-3960. Upcoming events: **Turkish Cultural Center Event** (9/16-17). 42nd St & Park Ave., 212-532-4900; grandcentralterminal.com

Gray Line Sightseeing Tours — Daily tours by open-top deluxe double-decker buses and luxury coaches. Classic New York Tour includes a round-trip ferry ticket to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, a ticket to the South Street Seaport Museum, a ticket to the Empire State Building Observatory and the ALL LOOPS TOUR, a 2-day ticket hop-on and off w/ 50+ stops from Times Square and Broadway to Harlem to Brooklyn, & Night Tours. 777 Eighth Ave. btw. 47th & 48th Sts.; PABT, 42nd St. & Eighth Ave.; Times Square, Broadway btw. 46th & 47th Sts., 800-669-0051; newyorksightseeing.com

Harlem Spirituals/New York Visions — Explore Harlem with Gospel tours on Sun. and Wed. and the evening soul food and jazz tours Mon., Thurs., and Sat.; New York Visions uncovers the hidden treasures of Manhattan, the Bronx, and Brooklyn. 690 Eighth Ave. (43rd-44th Sts.), 212-391-0900; harlemspirituals.com

Helicopter Flight Services Tours — See NYC from above the turmoil of its streets. They offer 2 long helicopter tours that include the Statue of Liberty, NY Harbor, the Chrysler Building, Central Park, Columbia University, the George Washington Bridge, Yankee Stadium and the Financial Center. They also offer customized tours of the city and hourly rates. *Downtown Heliport* (Pier 6 & the East River), 212-355-0801; heliny.com

Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum — The renovated museum complex includes the 900-foot-long aircraft carrier with seven full decks and four theme halls; the guided missile submarine Growler; and an extensive aircraft collection including the A-12 Blackbird and the British Airways Concorde. Experience newly opened areas of the ship, new multimedia presentations and exhibit collections, interactive educational stations, recently restored historic aircraft collection and a brand new state-of-the-art public pier. Upcoming events: **27 Seconds - The Apollo 1 Tragedy** (through 11/21). Pier 86, W. 46th St. & 12th Ave., 212-245-0072; intrepidmuseum.org

King Tut — After more than 30 years, the record-breaking exhibition, returns to NYC for its final stop before these ancient treasures return to Egypt forever. *Discovery - Times Square Exhibition*, 226 W. 44th St., 888-988-8692; kingtutnyc.com

Liberty Helicopter Tours — Six different tours in modern jet helicopters. Reservations required for 6 or more passengers. *Downtown Heliport* (Pier 6 & the East River), 212-967-6464; libertyhelicopters.com

Madame Tussauds New York — A chance for an up-close-and-personal look at nearly 200 famous faces, from the Dalai Lama to Madonna, Albert Einstein to Joe DiMaggio. The famed Madame Tussauds wax museum of London has a spectacular NYC version in Times Square that's become one of the city's must-see sights. New York and world notables from film, television, music, politics, history and sports are represented in themed displays. Open 365 days a year from 10am. \$35; \$32 (seniors); \$28 (4-12). 234 W. 42nd St. (Seventh-Eighth Aves.), 800-246-8872; madametussauds.com/newyork

Madison Square Garden All-Access Tour — The one-hour guided tour features backstage and onstage at the Garden, locker rooms, dressing rooms, and more. Group discounts are available. Tours operate daily, approx. every half-hour: Mon.-Sat., 10am-3pm; Sun., 11am-3pm. \$17; under 12, \$12.