

Country: UK

Publication: Square Mile

Fairmont Hotel: The Plaza, A Fairmont Managed Hotel

Date: September 2015

Circulation: 59,612

AVE (\$): 9,152



OLD SCHOOL: THE PLAZA, FAIRMONT

768 5th Ave, New York, NY 10019

The lowdown

Every great city has its *grandes dames* – hotels which embody a golden era before emoticons, smart watches and Google Glass – and for New York, it's The Plaza. The Fairmont-managed hotel is an institution, and almost as iconic as the park it borders.

The location

It's so close to Central Park, it's practically in it. On one side you have the Apple Store, on the other – a few blocks down – is Carnegie Hall. MOMA is a ten-minute stroll away.

The vibe

A testament to timeless elegance – from its castle-like façade to the opulent grandeur of its beaux arts *décor* – it is unashamedly old money. Back in 2008, it was gutted after years of neglect and rebuilt in a Louis-XV style echoing the era when it was first designed – in 1907. That's not to say there aren't some modern touches, though: wall-mounted panels allow you to dictate everything from climate control to the lighting scheme.

The spa

The spa is run by Caudalé Vinotherapie – the company which extols the powerful impact of grape seeds, skins and stems on skin. However, if you prefer your grapes in a more fermented form, it's still a great place to have your hangover massaged away.

The food and drink

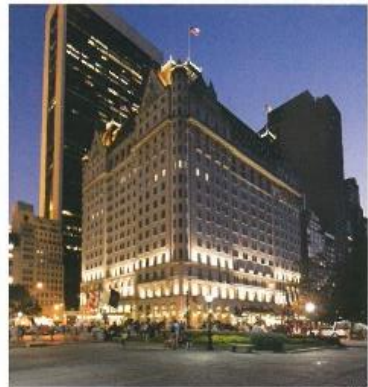
Palm Court is the city's premier destination for afternoon tea. Of course, you may get enough of that this side of the pond, so you may prefer to head to the Champagne Bar or the Rose Club to mix with New York's bold and beautiful. For foodies, the 32,000sq ft Plaza Food Hall is heaven on earth.

The people

Book a room here, and you get a 24-hour butler with actual white gloves. We're sold. ■
For more info, go to FAIRMONT.COM



The Plaza was gutted after years of neglect and rebuilt echoing the era of its original design



PLUCKY CHARMS: (clockwise from top): the bedrooms have been created to echo the hotel's original Louis XV design; the hotel at night; the view from Central Park; the glass dome above the Plaza Food Hall