



Le Meurice  
Paris

DORCHESTER COLLECTION

BACKGROUND



*The hotel of artists and thinkers*

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# *The history of Le Meurice hotel*

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### The Hotel of Kings and Queens

**Charles-Augustin Meurice** (1739-1820), an enterprising regional postmaster, did not invent the Channel tunnel. However, in the middle of the XVIII century, he understood the need for upper-class British travelers to find the same comfort and facilities as they were used to at home. In 1771, he decided to open an Inn, which would allow them not to feel disoriented once they arrive on the French shores. From there, a second coaching was build, at the 223 rue Saint-Honoré, in Paris.

Thinking back on how difficult travelling used to be for tourists at that time, Le Meurice was offering a brand new hospitality style. All the details were well thought in order to guarantee the most peaceful atmosphere to the guests for their stay: employees were fluently speaking English and all types of apartments were available for rent.

**Le Meurice moved in 1835 to its present site, one of the most fashionable locales in the city, overlooking the historic Tuileries Garden.** Over the years, the Paris hotel developed a reputation for lavish entertainment, with dinners lasting from eight in the evening until eight the next morning. The hotel's fame grew during the century, Le Meurice regular guests were the elite aristocracy who was looking for the service quality, the rooms refinement, as well as the outstanding location of Le Meurice right in the historical center of Paris nearby the luxury shops and historical places. A newspaper clipping from 1855 mentions that Queen Victoria stayed at Le Meurice while in Paris. Russian composer Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky stayed at Le Meurice when giving a concert nearby. A limited liability company named the "Hôtel Meurice" was formed in 1898 to own and operate the hotel. Arthur Millon, who headed the new company, and his director, Mr. Schwenter, responded to the expectations of their privileged guests by providing luxurious facilities and by undertaking a major renovation of the property in 1898.

The extensive two-year renovation and enlargement supervised by the architect **Henri Nénot, winner of the Grand Prix de Rome**, enabled Le Meurice to be fully rebuild. Louis XVI style has been dominating the decoration, especially for the salons located on the ground floor, whereas rooms were granted with the most modern type of comfort such as private bathrooms, telephone, and electric bell linking guests to their staff. Famous painters as Poilpot, Lavalley and Faivre were in charge of the ceilings, which were a reminiscence of Versailles, le Trianon and Fontainebleau.

From this era, Le Meurice has kept the salon Pompadour with its white and gold woodwork, the restaurant, the Fontainebleau salon and the wrought iron glass roof that housed the hall, recently covered by the outstanding painting of Ara Starck. During the renovation, the workers took in a stray dog, a greyhound. It was adopted by the hotel's staff and thus became its mascot. Until today it is the emblem of Le Meurice.

### From the hotel of kings and queens to the hotel of artists and thinkers

In 1935, Léon-Paul Fargue, famous poet, divided the Parisian hotels' clientele into three categories: "the bad one, the good one and the Meurice's one". Many crowned heads were part of the last one. The King of Spain, Alphonse XIII, was one of the first people to book rooms at Le Meurice after the renovation. He stayed regularly in Suite 106-8, bringing his own furniture. In 1931, after Alphonse XIII was dethroned, he took refuge at Le Meurice under the name of the Duc de Tolède with all of the royal family. The Duke and Duchess of Windsor also retreated to Le Meurice. The King of Montenegro checked in after being chased from his kingdom and the Shah of Iran was actually dethroned during his stay at Le Meurice! The King of Montenegro, the Prince de Galles, King George VI, French President Doumergue, the Sultan of Zanzibar, the Maharaja of Jaipur, and the Grand Duchess of Russia also were regular guests of the hotel, which came to be called the Hôtel des Rois (Hotel of the Kings). Until the 1950s, the Parisian press regularly chronicled the comings and goings of aristocracy from countries ranging from Austria to Zanzibar. Other famous guests have included President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Dukes and Duchesses of Windsor, Kent, York, and Marlborough; the Baron de Rothschild, Sir Anthony Eden; and the rulers of Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Greece, Iran, Italy, Serbia, Montenegro, Jordan, Romania, Russia, and Thailand.

By the mid of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, royal guests became less frequent leaving the hotel to the artist and thinkers. Already in 1918, Picasso and his wife, the ballerina Olga Koklova selected Le Meurice to host their wedding dinner. The newlyweds had dinner surrounded by their bestmen: Jean Cocteau, Guillaume Apollinaire, Max Jacob and Serge Diaghilev. The period from the 50s on is highly remembered due to the welcoming of one of our most exuberant guest, Salvador Dali, the surrealist genius. For more than thirty years, he stayed for a month every year in what used to be the Alphonse XIII royal suite where his domestic cheetahs scratched the suite's carpets. With Dali, employees were quite busy, however he was giving them lithographs to show his gratitude towards the service he received. He could ask them to catch flies in the Tuileries garden or to bring a flock of sheep to his suite so he would shoot blanks. For such a hotel as Le Meurice, its guests' wishes, as crazy as they might be, were considered as orders. In line with that, another unusual guest was the Franco-American billionaire Florence Gould. She started to organize some literary lunches, which were gathering renowned writers from different backgrounds such as Arletty, **François Mauriac, Léautaud and Paul Morand, les Jouhandeau, Roger Peyrefitte, André Gide and Roger Nimier.** Thanks to her, Le Meurice hosted one of the last Parisian literary salon.

Throughout centuries, Le Meurice kept on forging intimate links with artists. In light of that, it is nothing but normal to catch still today sight of talented artists, painters, musicians or even actors internationally renowned.

## *Franka Holtmann, a visionary in the luxury hotel world*

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*Franka Holtmann, General Manager at Le Meurice*

German by birth, French at heart, Franka Holtmann, General Manager at Le Meurice, has become a leading expert in palace hotels. From The Ritz Paris to Hôtel Plaza Athénée, from Hôtel de Crillon to Le Meurice, the consummate professional has left her mark on the most prestigious addresses in Paris and spearheaded the renaissance of luxury in the capital. The starting point of her flawless career was simply, as she explains, that “I love the magic of hotels”.

### **The beginning**

In 1980, following her studies at the Ecole Hôtelière in Munich, Franka Holtmann left Germany for France. Having fallen in love with the country during a trip some years earlier, she enrolled at the Faculty of Arts in Nice to study for her degree as an international student. She was especially fascinated by philosophy and literature, and developed a strong interest in the French language and its authors. However, she never forgot her initial passion, and moved to Paris after her studies to take up a sales director position at Hotel Le Méridien, which she held for five years. This role enabled her to hone her skills in the hospitality industry. As her career took shape, Franka Holtmann developed an interest in marketing and management, and decided to pursue professional training to further build her skills. She completed the marketing course provided by Cornell University and ESSEC in the evenings before gaining her degree in management from the Institut Méridien. She then went on to take a management course at INSEAD.

In 1995, her career took on a new dimension: she became commercial director at The Ritz Paris, entering the exclusive circle of the world’s most famous palace hotels. Her task was considerable: to rejuvenate this mythical establishment, but she rose to the challenge. Five years later, François Delahaye, general manager at Hôtel Plaza Athénée, called on her strategic and managerial talents, naming Franka Holtmann deputy general manager. Next, she took over the reins as general manager at Hôtel de Crillon, before being appointed General Manager at Le Meurice – part of the Dorchester Collection, like the Plaza Athénée – in June 2006.

### Le Meurice: a new challenge

When she arrived at Le Meurice, the oldest palace hotel in Paris (1835), Franka Holtmann met with an establishment with a rich history and a strong identity, but in need of revitalising. She gathered all her energy and expertise to breathe new life into her 'new home'. She developed a visionary, ambitious action plan with one simple aim: returning 228 rue de Rivoli into what it always was, an iconic address, a place of relaxation and discussion where talents meet, the home of both Parisians and visitors from all over the world. Franka Holtmann surrounded herself with consultants and historians, repositioning the brand and its values and deciding to revive the location's historical and cultural DNA. This is why she created the Meurice Prize for contemporary art, an annual corporate patronage project, which provides financial support for a young artist and his or her gallery to help them gain international recognition. In 2007, she enlisted the skills of world-famous designer Philippe Starck to restore the flair of the hotel's public spaces. Together, they created the new Le Meurice: a warm, welcoming space, both elegant and relaxed. They worked their magic and brought out the hotel's heritage: The Salon des quatre saisons was reborn as Le Dali in homage to the most illustrious and loyal of the hotel's guests. The light was dramatically changed by Starck, who suggested an ambitious project: covering the ceiling with a canvas created by an artist. For the first time, Starck collaborated with his daughter Ara, a talented painter, who created an enormous canvas in iridescent colours in her studio. The room, which was originally missing a distinctive element, is now a warm, elegant space, perfect for whiling away the hours. When it came to furnishing the hotel's rooms and suites, Franka Holtmann called on the expertise of Charles Jouffre, whose Lyon workshops continue the fine tradition of upholstery. In 2016, she asked him to work on the design of an entirely new project, the Pompadour Suite and in 2019 she called again on his talent to refurnish 29 rooms and suites. This marked the beginning of a new era for Le Meurice.

### Accolades

- 2008: awarded Best Hotelier of the Year at the Virtuoso Awards, the benchmark of global luxury hospitality.
- 2010: awarded the Légion d'honneur by barrister Catherine Paley-Vincent, former member of the French bar association and French National Bar Council.
- 2015: awarded Best General Manager in France at the World Luxury Travel Awards.
- 2015: became CEO of the public corporation Cité de la céramique-Sèvres et Limoges.

# *The appartements*

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*Terrasse de la Suite Belle Etoile ©Mark Read*

### Appartements & Suites

**Le Meurice** is ideally located between **Place de la Concorde** and the **Louvre**, with views of the **Tuileries Garden**. The spirit of the hotel's interior echoes the 18<sup>th</sup> century style of its reception halls. Each of the rooms is unique with combinations and colors schemes vary depending on their size and orientation.

There are 160 rooms and suites in the Hotel, each a perfectly conceived retreat, with fine furnishings and luxurious fabrics. The decoration of every room is unique and all furniture are upholstered in fabrics from famous, top of the line French and Italian companies such as Rubelli and Braquenié. All together 170 different fabrics have been chosen and each room boasts at least 100 yards of such fabrics, with some rooms using more than 200 yards.

The rooms overlook rue du Mont Thabor, rue de Castiglione, and the inner courtyard focuses on the details and orientation of the rooms themselves. In contrast, the decor of the rooms overlooking the Tuileries is calculated to draw the eye toward the window and beyond to the gardens below.

Colorful red and ochre marble from the Pyrénées used in the Château de Versailles but rarely seen in the last 200 years is used in bathrooms along with Italian marble – Arabescato (white and gray), and white Carrara. All showers have adjustable showerheads, and some bathrooms have alcove tubs. Custom-made lamps run the length of both sides of the mirror. Five of the guestrooms have open and antique style bathrooms. Most of the bathrooms have natural daylight and three bathrooms on the sixth floor overlook the Tuileries Garden.

### The Presidential Suites

Two high-ceilinged Presidential Suites are on the Hotel's first floor, facing the Tuileries Garden. Both suites, individually decorated in a formal 18<sup>th</sup> century Louis XVI style are furnished with one-of-a-kind masterpieces, with parquet floors of aged woods and rugs by Braquenié created with special motifs just for these rooms. For the Dali suite, the decoration is punctuated with winks referring to Salvador Dali who stayed in that exact same suite for over 30 years.

A second or third suite can be connected, or the entire floor can be transformed into a private apartment of 5,380 square meters.



Salon de la suite Présidentielle Dali ©Mark Read



Détail ©Mark Read



Salon de la suite Présidentielle Tuileries  
©Mark Read



Chambre de la suite Présidentielle Tuileries ©Mark Read

### Pompadour Suite

In July 2016, Le Meurice is continuing this tribute to the refinement of the 18<sup>th</sup> century with a completely new suite named after the Marquise de Pompadour. Charles Jouffre's workshop set the tone for this project, which involved a number of highly regarded artisans, with expertise as distinguished as silk by Prella, trimmings by Declercq and chandeliers by Lucien Gau. The perfect blend of classic and modern, the Madame de Pompadour apartments incorporate intuitive automation and state-of-the-art technology to provide guests with maximum comfort.



*Chambre de la suite Pompadour ©Mark Read*



*Salon de la sSuite Pompadour ©Mark Read*

### **Rooms and Suites – The modern-day Versailles**

In June 2019, 29 rooms and suites from the third to sixth floor, all with exceptional panoramic views, have been artfully restored. Charles Jouffre, Le Meurice's interior designer of ten years, invited two young designers, Margaux Lally and Luc Berger of interior design studio Lally & Berger, to mastermind the new vision of Franka Holtmann.

#### **The project**

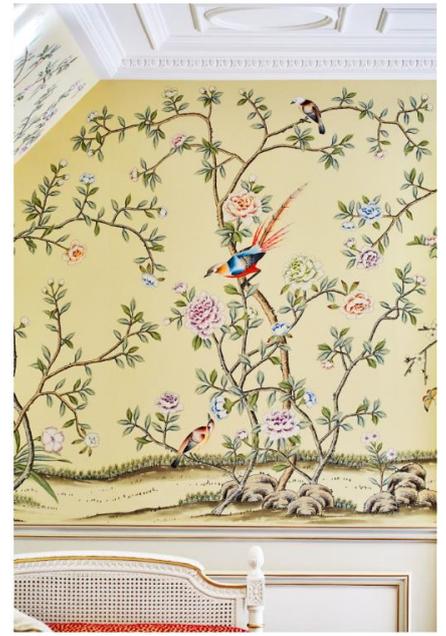
The latest rooms and suites offer a completely fresh perspective and are a celebration of Le Meurice's true spirit. The designers considered what a modern-day Versailles would look like if it was built now and used this as their underlying theme. Bringing with them a certain 'Je ne sais quoi' that's both elegant and audacious, the designers have created a series of lighter and brighter spaces, decorated with a tactile array of the finest French fabrics including silk, damask and velvet, alongside bespoke furniture and well-thought out artworks relating to the history of Paris and Le Meurice. In 2020 Le Meurice called again on the expertise of Lally & Berger to refurnish 20 additional rooms and suites. Expanding on the first renovations, the garden spirit is ever-present but, in addition, there are new inspirations taken from the artists and free minds who have marked the history and essence of this place.

*“Our aim was to stay true to the spirit of 18<sup>th</sup> century French design and the rich history of Le Meurice. We wanted an elegant look with just the right touch of modernity to appeal to today's travelers. The project was guided by the idea of luxurious comfort and a sense of wellbeing, paired with intuitive technology, authentic art and a play of light with shimmering fabrics. We invite guests to enjoy all these exceptional details and take a fresh look at nearly 200 years of history.”*

***Franka Holtmann, General Manager***



Suite Exécutive ©Mark Read



Junior Suite Exécutive ©Mark Read



Chambre Exécutive ©Mark Read



Chambre Exécutive ©Mark Read

### The Belle Etoile Suite

True to her name, the Belle Etoile Suite is quite simply beautiful. Every detail has been carefully chosen by design studio Lally & Berger, to create a breathtaking setting and complement the incredible terrace with a unique 360° view of Paris. Together the suite and garden cover an impressive 620m<sup>2</sup>/6,674ft<sup>2</sup>, including up to three connecting bedrooms, making it one of the most spacious suites in Paris. All the rooms have large windows for a light and airy feel, drawing your eyes to appreciate the city landscape. When it comes to relaxing, take your place in the cinema-style sitting area, where the flexible furniture set-up can be configured to suit your requirements and ensure you feel instantly at home.

So much more than a terrace, the suite's expansive outdoor space is a beautiful private garden, where guest are transported to a haven of greenery inspired by the Tuileries Garden below. Landscape designer Pierre-Alexandre Risser is the creative mastermind behind the garden. For him, this was about choosing the perfect shapes, textures and beautiful blooms to create a haven in the heart of an urban metropolis. Located in the historical Paris a total of 18 monuments can be seen from the rooftop terrace: from Notre Dame to the Musée d'Orsay, from the Eiffel Tower to the Grand Palais, from Place de la Concorde to the Arc de Triomphe, from the Opera to the Sacré Coeur.



*Le Suite Belle Etoile ©Mark Read*

## *Fine dining at Le Meurice*

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*Restaurant le Meurice Alain Ducasse by Philippe Starck*

As of September 2013, Alain Ducasse supervises all the food and beverage served at Le Meurice with the expertise of Chef Amaury Bouhours, Executive Chef of Le Meurice since April 2020.

### Restaurant le Meurice Alain Ducasse, two Michelin stars

For his fine-dining restaurant at le Meurice, **Alain Ducasse** has developed a concept which highlights his philosophy. Excellence, elegance and experience are the key words. The cook strives to preserve the authentic flavour of the produce until it reaches the plate. Each dish expresses the truth of the product around which it is built. In this **cuisine of the essential**, the pleasure of the dinner requires that the cook's technique is placed in the background to preserve the authentic taste of exceptional products. And yet, there is indeed technique, a cleverly orchestrated complexity. With the arrival of **Amaury Bouhours in 2020**, the traditional codes of a palace gastronomy have been shaken up in order to propose an experience true to the modern time. This new energy is supported by Philippe Starck's work. To the splendor of the room which was inspired by the Salon de la Paix at the Château de Versailles, the designer has added some modern touches which reinforce the unique rapture. The classic Louis XV chairs have been replaced by knoll armchairs – a re-edition of the famous Tulip d'Eero Saarinen model - clad in white leather. An original Murano glass sculpture by Aristide Najean, bronze and stainless steel screens on the inside of which is found a transparent geometric mosaic composed of messages, photos and sketches and the widely present pink copper creates a special atmosphere. The romantic elegance is at his highest peak when you look through the majestic windows to the Tuileries Garden.

Open from Monday to Friday from 7pm to 9.30pm

Reservation by email [restaurant.lmp@dorchestercollection.com](mailto:restaurant.lmp@dorchestercollection.com) or by phone : +33 (0)1 44 58 10 55.



©pmonetta

The team : Cédric Grolet (Pastry Chef), Alain Ducasse (Chef), Amaury Bouhours (Executive Chef), Olivier Bikao (Restaurant Manager) et Gabriel Veissaire (Sommelier)



©makimanoukian

## Restaurant Le Dali

Le Dali is a unique place, one in which a singular, elegant and relaxed spirit reigns supreme. **Philippe Starck** already left his mark here in 2007 and has now initiated a second aesthetic exploration. The carpet designed by his daughter, Ara, echoes her immense earlier canvas stretched across the ceiling. Both works distort reality: the ceiling soars and the ground sinks into the winding ways of a crypt, like the convolutions of the brain. Through a few carefully scattered hints, Philippe Starck also builds an aesthetic bridge between Le Dali and the surrounding spaces. The pink copper element in the center of the room acts as a symbolic mirror, a nod to the neighbouring gourmet restaurant in which this material is extensively used. Likewise, the distressed brass encircling the “table of the four seasons” presages the mirrors of the Galerie Pompadour. The designer also took care to preserve the subtle ties with the spirit of Salvador Dali that permeates the place: the Swan chair and rocking chair, for example, are still there. But classics also merit reinvention: Philippe Starck has designed chairs with canvas backs printed with drawings by Ara Starck.

Whatever the time of the day, the Restaurant Le Dali offers a gourmet escape. Following his “from the farm to your plate” philosophy, **the chef Amaury Bouhours** has rethought his cooking, now focusing on the produce and relatable dishes with frank flavours, all executed to perfection. Here, the chef pursues his commitment to seasonal cooking placing the emphasis on ingredients from local distribution networks. And after a shopping tour in rue Saint Honoré or a visit of the Louvre museum, Le Dali is the perfect place to get some strength with pastry chef Cédric Grolet’s tea time.

Open every day.

Breakfast from 7am to 11am, lunch from 12pm to 2.30pm, dinner from 7.30pm to 10pm.

Tea Time from 3.30pm to 5.30pm (from 4.30pm to 6pm on Sunday) and brunch on Sunday from 12pm to 2.30pm.

Reservation by e-mail : [ledali.lmp@dorchestercollection.com](mailto:ledali.lmp@dorchestercollection.com) or by phone : +33 (0)1 44 58 10 44.



Restaurant le Dali ©pmonetta



©agathwhatyouneed



### Le Bar 228

Like the festive night scene at the Château de Fontainebleau portrayed in the three restored Lavalley paintings hanging on its walls, the Bar 228 offers guests an ideal respite, complete with decadent cocktails and lavish décor. The combination of dark woods and smooth leather under a hand-painted ceiling depicting the evening sky gives the bar a cosy-but-rich feeling.

Totally reinterpreted by Philippe Starck its warm and felted decoration remains faithful to its origins, with its stools and chairs in wood. The atmosphere is subtly warmed by the crackling glow of tobacco shades and highlighted by the sparkle of rare crystal decanters, to be filled at leisure.

For the menu, besides the cocktails of course, guests will be able to enjoy in the evening dishes to share, inviting them on a sunny journey and for lunch guest can choose between one of the signature dishes such as the Salade 228 or the Burger 228 garnished with chips.

Open every day from 12pm to 1am



Le Bar 228 ©pmonetta



©tinahillier

### La Pâtisserie du Meurice par Cédric Grolet

On March 20<sup>th</sup> 2018, Le Meurice and Cédric Grolet opened La Pâtisserie du Meurice par Cédric Grolet, a new gourmet address at 6, rue de Castiglione for Parisians and visitors from around the world offering eventually exclusive access to Cédric Grolet's creations.

A selection of unique desserts, like the trompe-l'œil sculpted fruits that made the talented pastry chef famous, is presented each season in extra-clear glass cases. His motto is, "Beauty brings them in but taste brings them back." On the menu, five pastries, as well as batches of madeleines out of the oven, fondant cookies and kouglofs with brioche dough. In the boutique, a pastry chef demonstrate key steps in making certain signature desserts and their raw materials are placed on display, revealing their secret ingredients! Creations to share (for 4 to 8 people) are available on order 48 hours in advance.

*Open from Wednesday to Sunday, from 12pm to 6pm.*

*Possibility to order via the website :*

<https://www.dorchestercollection.com/fr/paris/le-meurice/restaurants-bars/patisserie-meurice/#commandes-en-ligne>

*Withdrawal at the shop « La Pâtisserie du Meurice par Cédric Grolet » from 11am to 6pm from Wednesday to Sunday, 48h after the order.*



*La Pâtisserie du Meurice par Cédric Grolet ©pmonetta*



*La Pâtisserie du Meurice par Cédric Grolet ©pmonetta*

# *La Maison Valmont pour Le Meurice*

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*Spa Valmont pour Le Meurice ©markread*



*Maison Valmont pour Le Meurice ©markread*

Nestled on the rue de Castiglione in Le Meurice, Valmont has opened in 2020 its first Parisian flagship. Two interconnecting spaces, one 360 degree experience. On the ground floor, La Boutique designed by the CEO Didier Guillon, features Valmont Group's cosmetics and fine fragrances created by Sophie Vann-Guillon. Upstairs Le Spa Valmont, open since 2007, invites our guest to discover the exceptional results of Valmont's world-renowned treatments, performed by our expert therapists.

*La Maison Valmont pour le Meurice open from Wednesday to Saturday from 11.30am to 7.30pm*

*Le Spa Valmont is open from Monday to Sunday from 9am to 7pm.*

*Appointments can be made by calling the Spa directly on 01 44 58 10 77 or by email: [spa.lmp@dorchestercollection.com](mailto:spa.lmp@dorchestercollection.com).*

## *The history of Le Meurice in some key dates*

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- **1771:** Charles-Augustin Meurice's opens his first inn, the Chariot Royal, in Calais.
- **1818:** Louis-Augustin Meurice, Charles-Augustin's son, opens Le Meurice in Paris for the British at no. 323 on the Chemin Saint Honoré (which goes from Les Halles to the Champs-Élysées). The hotel quickly earns the nickname "the City of London."
- **1819:** Le Meurice expands. In its four new apartments facing the Tuileries, one can install up to 30 beds, or book a single bed in the smallest apartment for the price of 3 francs.
- **1828:** Pierre François Guerlain opens his first shop in the Hôtel Meurice.
- **1832:** Eugène-Michel Meurice plans to move the hotel to the brand-new street across from the Tuileries.
- **1835:** Le Meurice moves to 40-42 Rue de Rivoli (no. 228 since 1856), the tallest building on the street.
- **1837 (April):** James Pinckney Henderson, minister of the Republic of Texas, stays at Le Meurice while securing the recognition of Texas as an independent republic.
- **1838:** Honoré de Balzac has one of his dandies live at Le Meurice in *La Maison de Nucingen*.
- **1840:** William Makepeace Thackeray praises Le Meurice in *The Paris Sketch Book*.
- **1848:** After the Revolution, Miss Howard, Napoleon III's mistress, frequents Le Meurice.
- **1857:** Leo Tolstoy comes to Paris and spends his first night at Le Meurice.
- **1858:** Following the attack on Napoleon III and Empress Eugénie, a meeting between the United States and England is organized at Le Meurice by Lord Gray of Gray, Peer of Ireland.
- **1866:** The Countess of Segur has the character of Abel stay at Le Meurice in *Jean qui rit et Jean qui grogne*.
- **1879:** Tchaikovsky stays at the hotel before leaving for Rome.
- **1882:** Le Meurice offers its guests the first telephone lines.
- **1890:** All rooms at Le Meurice are equipped with private bathrooms.
- **1891:** Le Meurice is fully equipped with electricity.
- **1896:** The Archduke and Archduchess of Austria visit Le Meurice.
- **1899:** Official visit of the King of Greece.
- **1900:** Visit of Léopold II, King of the Belgians, and the Shah of Persia.
- **1903:** Visit of Edward VII, King of England (whose lunches must never exceed 35-40 minutes).
- **1904:** Visit of the Bey of Tunis.

- **1905:** Arthur Millon launches a major expansion and renovation campaign.
- **1907:** During the world's fair, Princess Gisela of Bavaria, Prince Otto of Bavaria, Prince Konrad of Bavaria, and Baron von Perfall stay at the hotel under the assumed names of the Countess and Counts of Wartenberg. Le Meurice reopens its doors in May. It is a European event. "Kings and lords from all around the world eagerly awaited the reopening to write 'Rue de Rivoli' on their residence numbers." A dog is added to Le Meurice's coat of arms. One of the first guests is King Alfonso XIII.
- **1908:** Edmond Rostand finishes his play, *Chantecler*, at Le Meurice. Salmon coulibiac is added to the Le Meurice menu and served every Friday to please Russian guests, while a curry dish, enjoyed by maharajahs, is served every Wednesday. The chef at Le Meurice creates Poularde Rivoli.
- **1909:** Gabriele d'Annunzio writes his most inflammatory poems for Nathalie de Goloubey, and the Paris elite flocks to the rooftop (Mr. and Mrs. Casimir Perier, Prince and Princess George, etc.).
- **1912:** In June, Boni de Castellane holds a ceremonial dinner on the rooftop, followed by a concert.
- **1916:** Misia Sert leaves her apartment on Quai Voltaire for Le Meurice, where she lives until 1927, and Nicholas I, King of Montenegro and Princess Milena of Montenegro take refuge at Le Meurice.
- **1917:** Le Meurice is transformed into a military hospital to treat wounded soldiers sent home from the front.
- **1918:** Pablo Picasso and Olga Khokhlova celebrate their wedding at the hotel along with their witnesses.
- **1924:** Florence Gould creates her literary lunches at the hotel, the Meuriciades.
- **1926:** The exiled King of Spain, Alfonso XIII and his family and staff move into Le Meurice. The hotel becomes the "Hotel of Kings," and many royal leaders come to stay there.
- **1929:** Fernand Gilet creates the Clés d'Or association at Le Meurice, which becomes international in 1952.
- **1930:** A billiard room is opened in the hotel basement. Visit of the King of Denmark.
- **1931:** A large dinner is held in honor of Marshal Lyautey, in the presence of Paul Reynaud. The Prince of Wales visits France and stays at Le Meurice. The movie *Mata Hari*, by George Fitzmaurice, is filmed at the hotel.
- **1932:** Coco Chanel holds several receptions at the hotel. The Prince of Wales returns to Paris.
- **1934:** Visit of the King of Siam.
- **1935:** *Paris-Soir*: "There are three types of hotel guests: the good, the bad, and those who stay at Le Meurice."
- **1937:** The Duke and Duchess of Windsor take up residence at Le Meurice. Opening of the Bar Fontainebleau.

- **1938:** Franklin Roosevelt, Count Ciano, Anthony Eden, France Parkinson Keyes, Ginger Rogers, and other celebrities all stay at Le Meurice. Le Meurice perfume is created, with an embossed metal bottle decorated with a chain and ivy design.
- **1939:** Aimée de Heeren leaves the United States for Paris and comes to live at Le Meurice.
- **1940:** Le Meurice is requisitioned and becomes the headquarters of the German military in Paris.
- **1944:** Lieutenant Henri Karcher arrests General von Choltitz at Le Meurice and liberates Paris.
- **1946:** James F. Byrnes, U.S. Secretary of State under President Truman, , stays at Le Meurice during the peace-building process.
- **1947:** The hotel is completely renovated, expanded, and remodeled (until 1972).
- **1950:** Salvador Dalí lives at Le Meurice for over 30 years.
- **1951:** Florence Gould creates and inaugurates the Prix Max Jacob at Le Meurice.
- **1952:** Ginger Rogers and Jacques Bergerac celebrate their wedding in the Salon Castiglione.
- **1954:** Coco Chanel returns to France and frequents Le Meurice while living on Rue Cambon.
- **1960:** Gary Cooper frequents Le Meurice.
- **1965:** Dalí presents his swimsuit collection at Le Meurice.
- **1967:** Dalí creates the “Painting Explosion” in his first floor suite and in November inaugurates the “Hommage à Meissonier” exhibition around his painting, *Tuna Fishing*, in the presence of Princess Grace of Monaco.
- **1968 :** Liza Minnelli stays at Le Meurice.
- **1971:** The Copper Bar opens in the presence of Salvador Dalí, who commissions Lionel Poilâne to create huge decorations out of bread, which he sets up in Le Meurice.
- **1972:** On a trip to Paris, Andy Warhol comes to Le Meurice and meets Dalí there. César exhibits highly figurative paintings in the Le Meurice Salons.
- **1974:** Dalí commissions a second series of bread decorations for Le Meurice. The movie *Nada*, by Claude Chabrol, is filmed there.
- **1975:** Filming of *The Story of O*, by Just Jaeckin.
- **1978:** Bob Dylan comes to Le Meurice and has his dinner served to him at 3:00 am. Prince Nicolo Pignatelli, Prince Muhammad Bin Talal of Jordan, Yehudi Menuhin, David Bailey, and Florence Jay Gould stay at Le Meurice, while the Queen Mother of Jordan has tea every afternoon at the Pompadour, served by the head bartender. Dalí introduces his Babou. The 28<sup>th</sup> Prix Max Jacob and 32<sup>nd</sup> Prix des Critiques are awarded at Le Meurice.
- **1980:** The hotel debuts its new slogan: “At Le Meurice, everything is new except the charm.”
- **1982:** The first auction of fine wines to benefit children around the world is held at the same time in five cities (Bordeaux, Paris, Geneva, London, and Chicago), including at Le Meurice.

- **1983:** The Prix Jasmin is launched at Le Meurice and is awarded to Lorraine Bolloré. Thierry Mugler presents his second runway collection at Le Meurice.
- **1985:** The Prix Marcel Pagnol for a book about childhood memories is inaugurated at Le Meurice. Arletty holds a luxurious party at the hotel to celebrate her birthday.
- **1986:** Gene Kelly discovers Le Meurice, while Karine Saporta organizes a happening called *Daphnis et Chloé* in Le Meurice Salons.
- **1987:** Don Juan Carlos I, King of Spain, visits Le Meurice.
- **1989:** Launch of the Prix Novembre (now the Prix Décembre) at Le Meurice by Michel Dennery. The Nuit des Hussards is held on 31 December to celebrate the past decade.
- **1990:** The Nuit des Hussards is held at Le Meurice.
- **1991:** Robert De Niro becomes a fan of the Le Meurice Bar.
- **1994:** Queen Sirikit of Thailand stays at Le Meurice. Three floors are reserved for her, and a throne and red carpet are installed in the Salon des Quatre Saisons for her receptions.
- **1997:** The Sultan of Brunei buys Le Meurice in early May.
- **1999:** The hotel is completely restored and renovated. The entrance is opened at 228 Rue de Rivoli.
- **2004:** On an official visit, the President of the People's Republic of China, Hu Jintao, stays at Le Meurice.
- **2007:** Franka Holtmann asks Philippe Starck to redesign the public spaces. While staying at Le Meurice, Nelson Mandela meets with the Springboks to congratulate them on their victory.
- **2008:** Creation of the Prix Meurice for contemporary art. Jean-Charles de Castelbajac launches his JCDC cocktail at Bar 228.
- **2009:** Eva Longoria holds her Par Coeur Gala at Le Meurice, along with a number of celebrities. Diane de Mac Mahon and Guillaume Durand celebrate their wedding at Le Meurice.
- **2010:** Woody Allen films *Midnight in Paris* at Le Meurice to show contemporary Paris. Viktor & Rolf celebrate the fifth anniversary of their Flower Bomb perfume in the presence of Grace Jones.
- **2011:** The President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, invited by the French president, stays at Le Meurice. The 5-star Le Meurice hotel is awarded the Luxury Hotel Label by the French Ministry of Tourism. Pierre Leroy launches the Prix des Prix Littéraires in the Le Meurice salons, and Kanye West and Jay Z record a new single there that sells more than 3 million copies.
- **2012:** Le Meurice is named a Living Heritage Business by the Ministry of Craftsmanship, Trade, Tourism and Productive Recovery.
- **2013:** Multi-starred chef Alain Ducasse oversees all dining at Le Meurice.
- **2015:** Le Meurice celebrates its 180<sup>th</sup> birthday.

- **2016:** Arrival of Executive Chef Jocelyn Herland at Le Meurice. Philippe Starck redecorates Le Meurice's restaurants and Bar 228. The new Pompadour Suite is launched, decorated by Charles Jouffre.
- **2017:** Le Meurice celebrates ten years of the Meurice Prize for contemporary art
- **2018:** Opening of *Le Meurice's Pastry Boutique* by Cédric Grolet
- **2019:** The design studio Lally & Berger redecorates 29 rooms and suites, including the Penthouse Suite Belle Etoile and its landscaped terrace. Filming of the Serie Arsène Lupin with Omar Sy.
- **2020:** Amaury Bouhours has been nominated Executive Chef of Le Meurice and launched the offer « le Meurice à la Maison ». 20 additional rooms and suites have been redesigned by the design studio Lally & Berger. Opening of La Maison Valmont pour le Meurice.
- **2022:** Filming for the new video clip of Ed Sheeran and J.Balvin at Salon Pompadour et cprrodor
- **2022:** Emily in Paris - Season 3 : Filming at Restaurant le Meurice Alain Ducasse
- **2022:** Launch of the first edition for the Prix du Meurice - June 1<sup>st</sup> 2022
- **2023:** Following the embellishment work of our rooms and suites, 39 new keys are delivered in spring.
- **2023:** Launch of the second edition for the Prix du Meurice - June 1<sup>st</sup> 2023

# *Factsheet*

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- Location:** Between the Place de la Concorde and the Musée du Louvre, facing the Tuileries Garden, Le Meurice is a few steps from the Opéra Garnier, the jewelers and the shops of rue de la Paix and place Vendôme.
- Address:** 228, rue de Rivoli  
75001 Paris  
France  
Phone: +33 1 44 58 10 10  
Fax: +33 1 44 58 10 15  
Website: [dorchestercollection.com](http://dorchestercollection.com)
- Access :** 45 minutes from Charles de Gaulle Airport.  
30 minutes from Orly Airport;  
Public parking at Place Vendôme.
- Rooms:** 118 soundproof, air-conditioned rooms, equipped with a minibar, TV with remote control and internet access via wireless keyboard, two direct telephone lines, bathroom telephones, and a safety deposit box. Stereo equipment and fax machines are available upon request. Extraordinarily spacious, each room is filled with fine period-style furnishings and paintings and exudes privilege and individuality.
- Suites:** The hotel offers 39 suites, including two Presidential suites on the first floor, and La Belle Etoile Suite with a terrace on the 7th floor, overlooking all of Paris.
- Dining:** For afternoon tea, cocktails, or a light meal there is the restaurant **Le Dalí** which serves breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner.  
At the restaurant **le Meurice Alain Ducasse**, dining is gracious and elegant. A visual and gastronomic showpiece, restaurant **le Meurice Alain Ducasse**, two Michelin stars, offers creative, light, and exquisitely flavored dishes. Open from

At cocktail time, guests can sip drinks in the hushed jewelbox setting of the **Bar 228**. Deep, leather-covered Chesterfield-style armchairs are placed under a decorated ceiling as mysterious as the evening sky.

**La Maison Valmont:** A cosy era of 340 square meters on the first floor with a sauna, hamma, fitness and 6 treatment rooms for a beauty escape with Valmont renowned treatments, performed by our expert therapists. At the ground floor an elegant boutique which combines beauty and contemporary art.

**Reception Rooms:** 3 reception rooms on the ground floor, including the Salon Pompadour, connecting for conferences, cocktails, lunches and gala dinners from 2 to 500 guests.

**Services:** Room service 24 hours a day; concierge; fine laundry and dry cleaning; currency exchange; individual safes; secretarial services. For business travellers, the concierge will arrange for use of laptop computers and secretarial and translation services. All guestrooms are wired to meet the most demanding business traveller's needs.

**General Manager:** Franka Holtmann

**Reservations:** Available through travel agencies, or through the hotel directly at 00 33 1 44 58 10 10  
or by email at [reservations.lmp@dorchestercollection.com](mailto:reservations.lmp@dorchestercollection.com)

**Credit Cards** All major credit cards are accepted.

# *Rates*

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Classic Single Room	€1590
Superior Room	€1690
Deluxe Room	€1840
Executive Room	€1990
Superior Room – park view with balcony	€2090
Executive Room – park view	€2390
Executive Room– park view with balcony	€2590
Junior Suite	€2700
Deluxe Junior Suite	€2900
Executive Junior Suite	€3200
Superior Suite	€3600
La Parisienne	€3800
Deluxe Suite	€4000
Pompadour Suite	€4200
Versailles Suite – park view	€4300
Executive Suite – park view	€4500
Heritage Suite – park view	€5000
Prestige Suite – park view	€5500
Presidential Apartment – park view	€8000
Belle Etoile Penthouse Suite with terrace	€20000

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## DORCHESTER COLLECTION

Dorchester Collection is a portfolio of the world's foremost luxury hotels and residences. The unique properties are all legendary in their own right, with rich heritages and worldwide reputations as places offering the most sought-after experiences of good living, charm, elegance, and unparalleled standards of service.

**The current portfolio includes the following hotels:**

**THE DORCHESTER** LONDON, **45 PARK LANE** LONDON, **COWORTH PARK** ASCOT  
**LE MEURICE** PARIS, **HÔTEL PLAZA ATHÉNÉE** PARIS, **HOTEL PRINCIPE DI SAVOIA** MILAN, **HOTEL EDEN** ROME  
**THE BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL** BEVERLY HILLS, **HOTEL BEL-AIR** LOS ANGELES, **THE LANA** DUBAI (opening 2023),  
TOKYO (opening 2028)

**Luxury residences include:**

**MAYFAIR PARK RESIDENCES** LONDON, **ONE AT PALM JUMEIRAH** DUBAI  
**THE LANA RESIDENCES** DUBAI, **AVA AT PALM JUMEIRAH** DUBAI, **ORLA** DUBAI, **VELA** DUBAI

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