

checkin



[THE SURREY, NEW YORK]



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Starting this issue, *delicious.* will offer you a glimpse inside the best hotels, from the latest openings around Australia to addresses in the world's most exciting cities. And what better place to begin than New York, where a recent refurbishment of The Surrey has seen it transformed into a plush destination worthy of its Upper East Side location. With a restaurant by one of the city's hottest chefs, a glamorous cocktail bar and Madison Avenue shopping around the corner, it's a true taste of Manhattan's high life.

out&about.



making an entrance

"And how may I address you, Ma'am?" asks the doorman as I step out of my town car – er, taxi – on East 76th. The doors swing open, revealing a modern take on Old World glamour as fur-clad society doyennes cross the silver-mosaic foyer past antiqued mirrors. Interior designer Lauren Rottet apparently lived in the 1920s-built hotel for a year (nice gig if you can get it) to decide on the Upper East Side townhouse feel, which harks back to The Surrey's origins as a residential hotel favoured by the likes of JFK and Bette Davis.

what's the room like?

Shades of soft grey, white and charcoal continue the black-and-white movie feel in the supremely comfortable Salon rooms (from about \$450 per double). The huge, marshmallow-soft beds (with pillow menu) and window seats overlooking the city rooftops are equally enticing. Spacious by

New York standards, the rooms' handpainted armoires hide flat screen TVs, while the bathrooms offer double sinks and oversized showers. Some feature private terraces, fireplaces and soaking tubs. Spacious by any standards is the 420m² Presidential Suite, complete with a dining room for 10, full kitchen, library and baby grand piano.

how's the food?

French-born superchef Daniel Boulud is scoring accolades all over Manhattan at the moment, from three-Michelin starred Daniel uptown to DBGB Kitchen and Bar, a posh sausage and burger bar on the hip Lower East Side. A favourite with locals as well as guests, the hotel's one-starred Cafe Boulud sits somewhere in between with its refined take on French-American fare. Think tuna carpaccio niçoise and Vermont chicken breast with savoy cabbage and chestnut puree.

bar scene?

The neighbourhood is also loving the hotel's Bar Pleiades (previous page), with its graphic Art Deco looks and quilted booths inspired by a Chanel bag. Cameron Bogue's cocktails are also couture, with creations such as the herb-infused Autumn Thyme or the Southern Fashion, made with candied pecan bourbon.

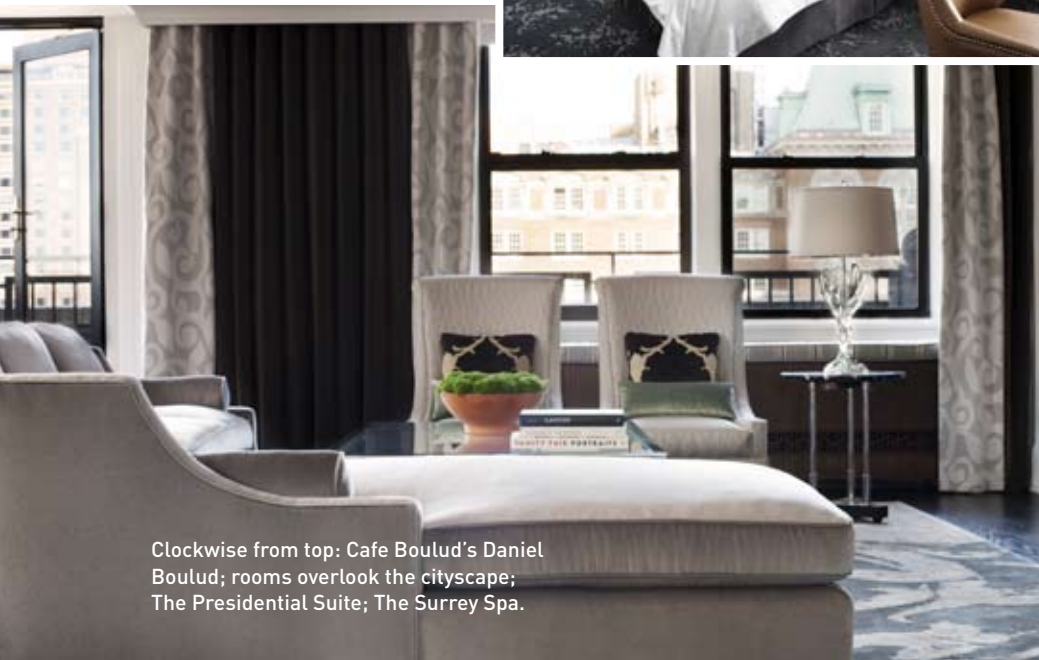
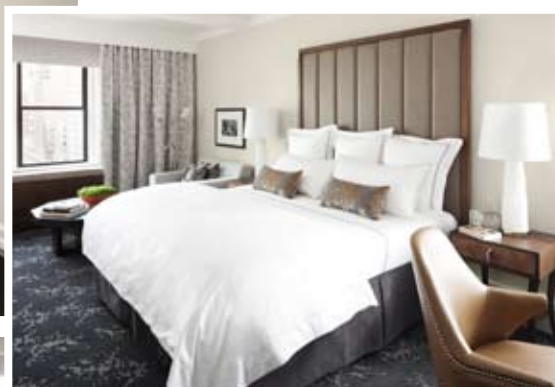
top to toes...

The private roof garden on the 17th floor is a tranquil eyrie overlooking Central Park, with butler service from Cafe Boulud for drinks and light meals. The sparkling silver-and-white spa is another oasis of calm, with customised Li'tya and Darphin treatments.

what's nearby?

Choose between a walk and a very expensive place – Central Park is a block to the west, and Madison Avenue's high-end stores are around the corner, from Cartier to Vera Wang and everything in between. The Upper East Side is also the ideal base for art buffs, as it's handy to the Met, Whitney and Guggenheim museums. The subway's nearby, too, if you want to trade uptown glam for the downtown nightlife. **d.**

The Surrey, 20 East 76th St, New York, +1 212 288 3700, thesurrey.com.



Clockwise from top: Cafe Boulud's Daniel Boulud; rooms overlook the cityscape; The Presidential Suite; The Surrey Spa.