

# FABLED BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL GETS FACELIFT

*The Pink Palace is still the place to see – and be seen – if money is no object*



ROCHELLE LASH  
*Checking In*

If you are here, you have arrived. No other hotel reflects the glamour and indulgence of Hollywood as does the Beverly Hills Hotel and Bungalows, where movie moguls take meetings in the Polo Lounge and stars are massaged with diamond dust at La Prairie Spa. The hotel is wrapping up a two-year restoration to every legendary space, including its 135 main-building rooms and suites. The venture is working. The Beverly Hills reported the best summer in its history in spite of protests against anti-gay policies by its owner in the Mideast, but the hotel's fans have returned in force.

As it approaches its 103rd year in 2015, the hotel is impeccably maintained and thoroughly modernized from pool to penthouse, boutique to ballrooms. The guest rooms are tech-forward with sensor buttons for lighting and heat, large flat-screens and bathroom mirrors with inset TVs. Guests curl up on divine, white custom-woven sheets embroidered with the hotel's logo and the closets are spacious enough for a film star's wardrobe. The furniture is covered in soft leathers, nubby woollens and opulent silks, creating an exquisite, classic-contemporary look by influential Tihany Design.

The lobby's whimsical banana-leaf motif has been softened to serene neutrals, although tradition stays strong. The Beverly Hills is keeping famous features that have made it one of the most recognized hotels anywhere — the renowned pink exterior and the splendid red-carpet entrance.

CELEBRITY CENTRAL

If the walls at the Beverly Hills Hotel could talk, they would dish about dangerous liaisons between Marilyn Monroe and Yves Montand, Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy, and Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier. Showbiz legends such as

Charlie Chaplin, Greta Garbo and Marlene Dietrich were habitués, and Elizabeth Taylor celebrated six of her eight honeymoons at the Beverly Hills Hotel. (Liz's father had an art gallery in the hotel.)

Fast forward to successive generations of glitterati who chill at this timeless getaway: box-office kings include Brad Pitt, Tom Cruise, Billy Crystal, Channing Tatum, Leonardo di Caprio, Zac Efron; screen queens include Sandra Bullock, Diane Keaton and Sharon Stone; and perhaps on separate days, Jennifer Aniston and Angelina Jolie.

As many as 40 car jockeys work during a dazzling Academy Awards party, when the lineup of chauffeur-driven Bentleys and Range Rovers stretches for blocks. The morning after the

IF YOU GO:

Air Canada flies to Los Angeles (LAX) from Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver.

**The Beverly Hills Hotel:** 800-283-8885, 310-276-2251, dorchestercollection.com; thebeverlyhillshotel.com; 9641 Sunset Blvd., Beverly Hills, Calif.; pet fee, \$35 a day includes bed, treats and toys. Children 12 and under receive V-VIP cards for beverages in the Fountain Coffee Room and the Cabana Café.

Oscars is a particularly sensitive time. Award winners opt for late checkouts, spending the day lunching, cocktail and socializing. Nominees who don't score a golden statuette slink out before breakfast, so they won't be seen.

I had been a guest at the Beverly Hills Hotel another memorable time. I attended the Academy Awards on the arm of a dashing, well-known matinee idol who danced like John Travolta and

**Price:** rooms, \$450-\$995 U.S.; suites, \$1,200-\$9,500 U.S.; bungalows, \$565-\$20,000 per night; with swimming pool, courtesy car, evening turndown.

**The Beverly Hills Hotel Spa by La Prairie:** 310-887-2006. The new half-day Balance Program costs \$995; a 60-minute Swedish massage, \$190. **Tourism info:** lovebeverlyhills.com, discoverlosangeles.com

worked the room like Rush Limbaugh.

You're thinking maybe George Clooney or Hugh Jackman? Nope, my date was CJAD's Tommy Schnurmacher, who was Montreal's top celebrity columnist and showbiz broadcaster before he turned to civic affairs.

ACCESSIBLE LUXURY

The pink art deco landmark with its Spanish Revival bell towers are La-La Land attractions

unto themselves, as historic and laden of mystique as the Hollywood sign or the MGM lion. And even you and I can experience the fabled Pink Palace with affordable indulgences.

The Asprey boutique is extravagant, but the hotel's Signature Shop is a gold mine of fun gifts. While spa treatments with diamonds and caviar are out of sight, a deluxe manicure for men or women is manageable.

The handsome Polo Lounge, recently spruced up in hunter green and mahogany, is where Spielberg and Scorsese sign deals. You can embrace the spirit and sip on The Envelope Please, a vodka-Champagne fizz spiked with flavours of honey, peach and lemon. The adorable retro Fountain Coffee Room is where Nicole Kidman and Catherine Zeta-Jones nibble lightly, perhaps on the Caviar Omelet or the Princess Salad.

BEST OF THE BEST

If you are a hotel guest, here are three incomparable experiences:

**The posh pool:** It's not because Faye Dunaway, Mick Jagger and Paul McCartney swam here. It's because this is a sublime pool, surrounded by palms, lime trees and rose bushes and trellises of tropical vines. While you are lounging, attendants in pink shirts deliver iced treats like berry smoothies and mojito pops, and they stop by to clean your sunglasses and mist you with Evian spray.

**The luxe bungalows:** The secluded bungalows of the Beverly Hills Hotel are set amid luxuriant gardens of pink azaleas and scarlet bougainvillea. They're ultra-luxurious hideaways for elite travellers seeking a homey environment, that is, if home has a swimming pool and plush designer interiors. The newest bungalows have multiple bedrooms to accommodate children and entourages of nannies, personal trainers, chefs and hair stylists.

**Cosmopolitan cuisine:** The hotel's newest in-room menu was designed for dining amid the splendour of the guest rooms and their terraces. Called the Taste of Dorchester Collection, it features signature dishes, such as the lobster club from Le Meurice in Paris and bread-and-butter pudding from the Dorchester in London. Both of these venerable establishments have been awarded Michelin stars under executive chef Alain Ducasse. [rochelle@rochellelash.com](mailto:rochelle@rochellelash.com) [twitter.com/rochellelash](https://twitter.com/rochellelash)



The art deco Beverly Hills Hotel has Spanish Revival bell towers. THE BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL AND BUNGALOWS

## WHERE TO STAY

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CALL  
514-987-2279



### VERMONT



**DAYS INN**  
3229 Shelburne Road, Shelburne  
802-985-3334  
Spend two nights at the Days Inn Shelburne, 2 person occupancy for \$149.00 through 2014. Close to attractions, shopping and restaurants. Free continental breakfast and wifi. Blackout dates include 11/27-11/29, 12/24-12/25 and 12/31. Call us directly if you would like a newly remodeled room or any special requests. Take I89 to exit 13 and make a left. We are 3 miles down on the left.



**QUALITY INN**  
2572 Shelburne Rd, Shelburne  
855-547-2524  
Special Rate for 2 night hotel stay for \$149.99 USD or 1 night for \$79.99 plus Tax. Park & Fly rate which includes 1 night stay with round trip transportation to BTV airport and up to 21 days parking for \$139.00 plus Tax. Rates based on double occupancy. Additional charge \$10/person/night. Pet charge \$20/pet/night. These rates also include Full Hot Breakfast, Indoor Heated Pool, Hot Tub, Sauna, Fitness center, Free wireless Internet and a Business center. Directions: I-89, Exit-13. Rates based on availability. Not valid on busy weekends. This promotion is available till 4/30/2015. Call 802-985-8037 or Toll Free: 855-547-2524 for reservation.



**TRAVELODGE**  
1016 Shelburne Road, South Burlington  
1-802-862-6421  
Close to downtown Burlington shopping malls and outlets. Enjoy a Free Full Hot Breakfast, High speed wireless internet and pets welcome. Special rates for 2 nights \$129.00 USD or 1 night for \$69.99 USD Plus Tax. Additional \$10 USD per person/night. Pet Charge \$10/pet/night. Rates based on availability and not valid on busy weekends. Call 802-862-6421 for reservations



**SMART SUITES**  
[www.smartsuitesburlington.com](http://www.smartsuitesburlington.com)  
1700 Shelburne Rd., So. Burlington, Vt.  
Toll free 877-862-6800  
Come and enjoy our hospitality in either a studio efficiency at US \$82.00 or a more spacious one bedroom suite at US \$92.00/night, including a deluxe continental breakfast and free WIFI. Mention the Gazette special. Not valid with other discounts and subject to availability. Effective December 1, 2014 to April 1, 2015. Take Exit 13 off I-89, left on rt. 7 for 1.5 miles, same entrance as Holiday Inn Express.

### VERMONT



**GREEN MOUNTAIN SUITES HOTEL**  
[www.greenmountainsuites.com](http://www.greenmountainsuites.com)  
401 Dorset Street, South Burlington, Vermont  
Toll-free reservations 866-337-1616  
Experience all the Charm of a Boutique Vermont Country Inn. Escape to beautiful Burlington, Vermont starting at \$129/night weekdays. Luxurious One-Bedroom Suite Includes Vermont-style Hot Breakfast served each morning. Includes Fireside Reception with Beer, Wine and Food (M-Th.), Heated Indoor Pool/Jacuzzi & Exercise facility. Walking distance to University Mall and close to Lake Champlain and the Church Street Marketplace. Promotional rate may not be available during select periods. Contact us for more info. Promotional rate may not be available during select periods. Contact hotel for more information.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE



**STONEHURST MANOR**  
[www.StonehurstManor.com](http://www.StonehurstManor.com)  
White Mountains, North Conway  
© 603-421-6146  
Beauty & comfort surround you at our historic "country elegant" boutique hotel. Panoramic mountain views, fireplaced Library Lounge, 20 guestrooms (8 w/frplcs) & renowned dining. LOTS of North Conway tax-free shopping nearby. Fr. \$78ppd(US) includes Breakfast, Dinner (from our full menu) and XC Skiing/SnoShoeing from the door. Call NOW for Fabulous Holiday Getaways! 603-421-6146 [www.StonehurstManor.com](http://www.StonehurstManor.com)

### NEW YORK



**RIVERSIDE TOWER HOTEL**  
[www.riversidetowerhotel.com](http://www.riversidetowerhotel.com)  
New York City, New York  
Toll free 800-724-3136  
Singles USD \$134. Doubles USD \$139. Suites USD \$149.-\$169. Lincoln Center area. Hudson River views, 18 floors, kitchenette, 5 minutes to midtown. Safe, quiet luxury area. Riverside Drive & 80th Street.



**AMERICA'S BEST VALUE INN**  
[www.plattsburghbestvalueinn.com](http://www.plattsburghbestvalueinn.com)  
19 Booth Drive, Plattsburgh, New York  
© 518-563-0222 Toll free 1-800-358-2137  
In wonderful Plattsburgh. Only \$120 for 2 nights. Canadian cash. Up to 2 people, additional pers. add \$10 more per night. Free continental breakfast. Located conveniently off exit 37 on I-87. Some holidays, wknds & spec. events do not apply. Up to 70% occ. daily. Based on availability.