



A Star on Hollywood Boulevard

CHECK-IN TO THE ICONIC HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT HOTEL FOR A TASTE OF HOW TINSELTOWN ROLLS

Words by Vanessa Pascale

Evoking an era when women were as breathtakingly elegant as Audrey Hepburn and men were as dapper as Gene Kelly, The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel is rife with old Hollywood glamour. The rich and famous and entertainment world have been attracted to the renowned hotel since they opened their doors in 1927. Their guest list reads like a major motion picture casting roster: Marilyn Monroe, Charlie Chaplin, Clark Gable and Carole Lombard... are just a few notables from times past. As for today, if you're lucky, you might glimpse Angelina Jolie, Miley Cyrus, Jay-Z or someone equally famous.

Its alcoves, rooms, lobby, pool area... are rich with remarkable show biz history. During my tour of the hotel, I was shown the famous staircase that Shirley Temple was taught to tap dance on by Bill "Bojangles" Robinson for their movie together. And history continues to be made since studios favor the landmark as a backdrop for their movies and television series, and return time and time again. You may recognize the Tropicana Pool area from a few *Entourage* scenes as I did, or remember its cameo in films like *Catch Me if You Can*, *Beverly Hills Cop II*, and *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*. The hotel has a mutual respect and admiration for the entertainment industry

illustrated in the Tower. On every floor there is an impressive mélange of paparazzi-esque, black and white photographs of legends ranging from Truman Capote to Al Pacino.

The hotel named after President Theodore Roosevelt was built in a Spanish Colonial Revival style with beautiful tiling featured throughout the cavernous lobby lounge and common area hallways. Recently renovated, the hotel (which has been designated a Historic-Cultural Monument along with its pool featuring a multi-million-dollar mural painted by David Hockney) will continue to modernize in order to lure in

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new guests and keep up with the times. Next on the list of spaces to be revamped is their lobby lounge, which will be redone to create a more intimate setting, I am told. The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel purists can rest easy knowing that the overhaul is not meant to rid the hotel of its beloved vintage charm, that will remain intact.

For those seeking a special retreat, the options are divine. There are two areas to choose between: the Towers, which has received a \$25 million renovation with design by Yabu Pushelberg (ideal for business travelers and families) and the Cabanas by the Tropicana pool (ideal for those looking to be at the epicenter of the excitement). The Marilyn Monroe Suite, named after the legendary star as it served as her brief residence, overlooking the pool is bursting with glamorous appeal. The open floor plan features chic furniture, vintage Eames designer pieces and a wraparound balcony. The 3,200-square-foot penthouse, which is Clark Gable and Carole Lombard's former preferred haven, features three levels designed by Dodd Mitchell in extravagant contemporary furnishings, and a stunning rooftop patio boasting 360-degree views of the Hollywood Hills and Los Angeles's glittering skyline.

There are 32 suites, including the 1,200-square-foot Roosevelt Suite outfitted with a king canopy bed, luxurious living/dining space, streamlined décor, and beautiful sliding, wooden barn doors between the two rooms to grant privacy when needed; and the 700-square-foot Double Suite appointed with two double beds, a large living/dining area, and the same sliding barn doors. All rooms feature Davines bath and body products (I am in love with the smell of their body lotion), complimentary wireless internet, a full



Cabana Room



The Spare Room

minibar, in room safe, complimentary coffee/tea (delivered upon request) and white robes. Amenities include a 24-hour fitness center, massage garden, valet parking, dry cleaning and laundry services, currency exchange and stamps, ATM, and daily coffee/tea service in the lobby.

Hunger can be, and should be, sated at one of their three restaurants: Tropicana Pool Café, Public Kitchen and Bar (an American brasserie), and 25 Degrees (burgers and milkshakes), open 24-hours. If you feel like staying in, (breakfast in bed? Yes, please!) order off their convenient, 24-hour, in-room dining menu. When you want to go out, they have you covered there, too. Established as the scene for exclusive nightlife, the spaces formerly known as Teddy's and Beacher's Madhouse (both have hosted more celebrities

than an issue of *US Weekly*) are currently being revamped to return even hotter than before. No small feat, but if anyone can do it, they certainly can. For some entertainment and perfected libations, there is The Spare Room, their retro game room/bar with a vintage bowling alley and a panoply of board games; Library Bar, a dimly-lit, cozy retreat that serves Omakase style cocktails crafted from ingredients of your choosing—fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs; and The Tropicana Café which often hosts poolside parties.

With its 25,000-square-feet of event space available, the host of the First Academy Awards has remained a prime choice for Tinseltown's prestigious soirées and swanky premiere parties—especially since it is across the street from The Chinese Theatre. Check off every attraction on



Tropicana Pool



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your Hollywood bucket list by simply stepping out the front doors, which opens on to the Walk of Fame, and dining/entertainment options galore — you have Jimmy Kimmel Live, Hard Rock Café, Hollywood & Highland Shopping Center, where you can snap a selfie with the Hollywood sign perfectly positioned in the distance.

You won't have to go far for a celeb sighting, simply hang out in the lobby lounge perpetually filled with locals and guests, where you're sure to spot one. Seriously, just keep your eyes open. While I was here, Terrence Jenkins, *E! News* co-anchor/actor passed through. A great spot for rest and relaxation, a delicious repast and refined cocktails, it's no wonder that locals, out-of-towners, and celebrities alike continue to frequent the hotel. Come in and soak up the charm of one of the most enchanting hotels around. It's one star on the Walk of Fame you really should not miss. **ML**



Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel is located at 7000 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90028
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