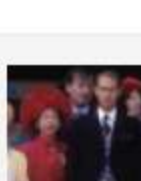




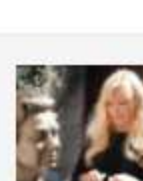
Royal relative hits back at Nerissa and Katherine Bowes-Lyon storyline in  
48 MINUTES AGO



The Duke of Sussex suggests Covid was like a punishment from mother  
50 MINUTES AGO



Why Prince Edward's 21st birthday meant a demotion for Princess Margaret  
1 HOUR AGO



How social media is changing the way we see celebrities  
60 MINUTES AGO

LIVING

# Why the Lanesborough is the most glamorous winter staycation destination

*The most luxurious Christmas gift imaginable*

by FRANCESCA CARINGTON

1 HOUR AGO



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AT THE LANESBOROUGH ENTRANCE

RITA FARHI

There's nothing like the reassuring splendour of a London grande dame to offer solace after a tumultuous year. And there's no grande dame quite like the Lanesborough. Slinking through its dark-panelled, portrait-lined halls is like slipping into a warm bath after a cold and miserable day – unbeatable in its comfort.

Having opened briefly in October, the Lanesborough has flung its doors open once again – and clearly, the staff, grinning behind their crown-embazoned masks, are just as delighted as guests to be back. Just ask your personal butler; every room has one.



THE LIVING ROOM IN THE ROYAL SUITE

A riot of Regency Revival wedding-cake opulence, the Lanesborough is grand without ever seeming stuffy, veering from the lemon confectionery of the drawing room to gleaming gold and dark wood of the bar. Our room, a junior suite, is ecstatically floral, with walls of eau de nil, an elegant four-poster bed and a bathroom of top-toe marble, kitted out with divinely scented Roja products. The coffee table groans with sweet treats: rosy pink petit fours from Peggy Porschen, chocolates piped with 'We missed you' – and a bottle of Moët sweating invitingly in a silver bucket to prove it.



TRAVEL

You're invited to the Tatler Travel Awards

And while Hyde Park is, effectively, the Lanesborough's front garden (and the excitements of Mayfair just a skip away), this is the kind of place that is agony to leave. Dinner at Céleste, the Michelin-starred restaurant at the heart of the hotel, is unmissable. The glass-ceilinged room is a baby-blue, neoclassical fantasia, an atmospheric setting for an evening of sophisticated yet unfussy food (think perfectly cooked quail, rich duck terrine and an almond pavé with smoking granita). Breakfast is served there too – a selection of decadent classics like truffle scrambled eggs and Foreman smoked salmon blinis.



CÉLESTE

Elsewhere, you can enjoy fine cigars and centuries-old cognacs and whiskies – you could even fork out £10,000 for a dram of whisky if you wanted. For those seeking indulgence elsewhere, the charming staff in the spa (a gilded, mosaic-floored, extravagantly grand space) can sort you out. In the silvery, temple-like treatment rooms, a talented team of therapists aim to heal your soul as much as your body, asking about your emotions and mental state before a relaxing massage with all-natural oils by ILA.



THE SAUNA AT THE LANESBOROUGH SPA

Do ask for a historical tour of the hotel: Simon, the head concierge, whisks through the building's fascinating history with knowledge and passion. (Once Viscount Lanesborough's London house, it became St George's hospital, where Florence Nightingale worked, before being transformed into the game-changingly luxurious hotel it is today.)



FEATURES

Drumroll: Introducing Sylvia's at The River Cafe

And the hotel has all kinds of festive delights in store for an extra-special December: from Peggy Porschen teas to personal, out-of-hours shopping at Harvey Nichols to Christmas Day at the hotel – with stockings for children, a five-course lunch and an appearance from Santa Claus. Although, of course, a stay at the Lanesborough is a Christmas treat in and of itself.

*The 'Staycation' package at the Lanesborough starts from £735 per night. Visit [oetkercollection.com](http://oetkercollection.com) to find out more*



THE LANESBOROUGH EXTERIOR