



A touch of luxury in the



Some months ago we reviewed the Pearl Restaurant which is part of the Renaissance London Chancery Court Hotel in Holborn. The restaurant was very impressive (see the review on our website travel pages), and we made a mental note that next time we were in London we would stay in the hotel. We like to discover and review hotels that are that bit out of the ordinary rather than the run-of-the-mill hotels that are on almost every street corner of every city. It was better than we could ever have expected.



The hotel Lobby.

Situated within walking distance of Covent Garden and most of the major west end theatres and attractions, this lovely hotel is located in a very discreet and private courtyard, built in what was the old neoclassical Pearl Assurance building. What a setting for a luxury hotel

The hotel occupies this striking Edwardian building where the city of London meets the West End. From 1914 it was the home of the Pearl Assurance Company until 1989, and then the building was restored by the

Marriott group with great sensitivity to its original features and opened as Renaissance Chancery Court in December 2000. Many of the building's original architectural details include seven types of marble and rare mahogany, which have resulted in several parts of the building being 'listed' by English Heritage.

Unlike most hotels, the entrance is located within its own courtyard, entrance to which is discreetly controlled by one of the hotels security staff. You walk out of the busy area of Holborn and are suddenly in an

'oasis' of peace and quiet. Once in the courtyard, you walk into the impressive hotel entrance which features a large spacious lobby that is dominated by eight marble columns with bronze plinths and capitals.

The Reception Desk is directly ahead with an impressive and most unusual floral display in the centre, quite unlike anything we have seen before. When did you last see a range of Amaryllis suspended upside down, and looking absolutely stunning? On either side of the Lobby are the Concierge and Porter's desks. Everything is

very minimal and spacious, which adds to the feeling of space and exclusivity. Check in is quick and efficient, and the reception staff get you off to a good start by making you feel really welcome.

All of the hotel's unique 356 rooms and suites are spacious and furnished in a classic contemporary style to a very high standard. There is also a Club Level on the third floor with its own dedicated lounge. We had a room on the fourth floor, which featured an entrance hall with a built in wardrobe (which also contained an iron and ironing board), a marble bathroom with double sinks on the left and the bedroom on the right.

The bathroom is large, with a very good selection of toiletries, plentiful thick towels, bathrobes and even a set of scales to remind you how much you are enjoying the food! A lovely feature for the ladies is a separate make up table with a large well lit mirror. It's the small touches that make the difference.

The bedroom itself was large and spacious with a sofa and armchairs and a large coffee table. One thing which seems standard in any Marriott group hotel, from their Courtyard brand right up to the more exclusive Renaissance brand, is a superbly comfortable bed. I don't think we have ever stayed in a Marriott hotel and been uncomfortable, thick but firm mattresses, down comforters, large and plentiful pillows and fine cotton sheets and duvets. You just sink into bed and the



The facade of the Renaissance Chancery Court.

stresses of the day, be it shopping or travelling just float away.

Service is discreet but very fast. A request for a pair of scissors was met with a knock on the door almost before we put the phone down.

Air conditioning is virtually silent (frequently not the case in many hotels), and nice attention to detail such as UK, European and American electrical sockets by the writing desk, so whatever plug you have on your laptop or whatever else, connection is no problem. Needless to say there is an internet connection (if you really must check your emails), or wireless in the reception area. Personally, I didn't want to, why spoil such relaxing comfort

by doing business.

Of course, if you are staying on business, your clients are going to be very impressed with your choice of hotel, and there are good meeting facilities available (there are 13 meeting rooms holding from 10 boardroom style to 280 in the ballroom) plus a 'state of the art' business centre and just about all the services you would expect from secretarial to fax and copying, messengers etc. This hotel is the place to clinch that multi Million pound deal in style!

The large TV (strangely not flat screen) had a very extensive range of channels, along with movies etc. The remote control was as complex as most hotel TV remotes are, but once you have mastered it and found the short cuts to what you want to see, it's plain sailing. Within the same cupboard you will find the mini safe, tea and coffee making facilities, a good range of teas from



A spacious Club room.



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Prague/Budapest	€209.98
Warsaw..	€181.89
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