


TRAVEL GUIDE



TRAVEL GUIDE 2026
THE 101 BEST HOTELS IN THE WORLD

Marvel at the play of light on the lagoonscape of Venice from Hotel Gabrielli's rooftop terrace



CORINTHIA LONDON London, UK

There's a transportative tranquillity to this landmark hotel, despite its location, just off the nexus of Trafalgar Square. For those who want real privacy, the Corinthia remains a powerhouse place-to-stay. (Beyoncé's a fan of the Royal Penthouse when she's in town.) The ESPA Life spa is a standout facility, with a well-appointed swimming pool where you can work up quite the appetite doing your laps. To sate it, head to the new Italian – Mezzogiorno by Francesco Mazzei – a beautiful, light and airy room of fabulous dimensions. Equally generous are the portions of the Bistecca alla Fiorentina it serves – and just wait until you try its dedicated white truffle menu. *Doubles from £800, including breakfast (corinthia.com).*

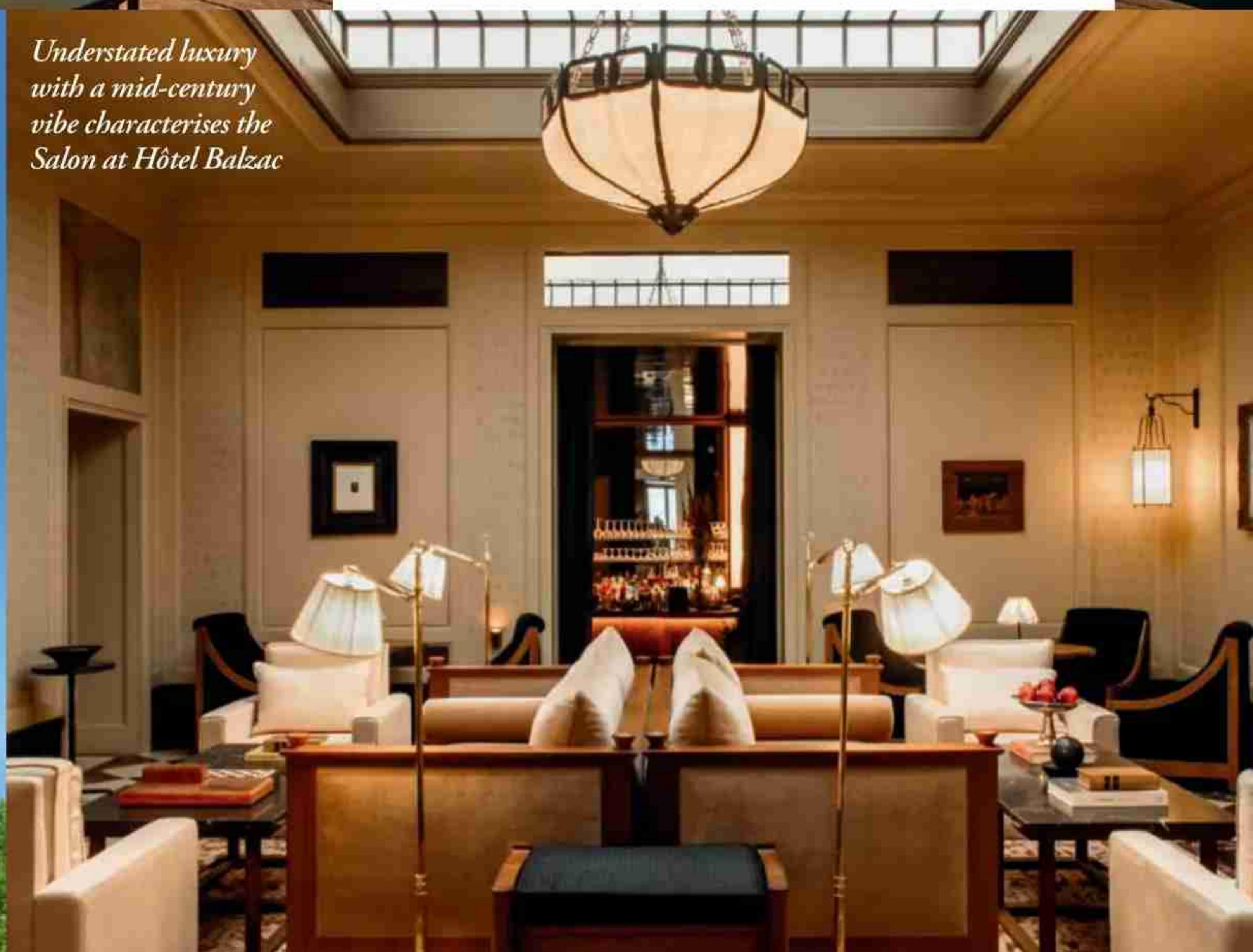


The Corinthia sits in the heart of London, between Whitehall and the Thames

HOTEL GABRIELLI Venice, Italy

Perched on the Riva degli Schiavoni, a short stroll from St Mark's Square, this palazzo has lined the lagoon since the 14th century, later welcoming passengers from the Orient Express and a roll call of writers. Not least Franz Kafka. It was here that the Czech writer penned brooding letters to his fiancée and muse Felice Bauer; and their romance has been honoured in the name of the hotel's quietly elegant restaurant. At Felice al Gabrielli, chef Mirko Pistorello puts a contemporary twist on tradition, serving refined dishes beneath the glass roof of a winter garden that feels both intimate and atmospheric. As does the building after designer Andrea Auletta's restoration throughout: the Murano chandeliers that glitter beneath coffered ceilings have been lovingly revived by Venetian artisans. Spacious new bedrooms whisper luxury; and the Presidential Suite offers a private rooftop terrace with breathtaking views. Other treats include a garden shaded by olive trees and magnolias; the Terrazza Gabrielli rooftop bar, perfect for a sunset spritz; and a spa that offers a hammam and jacuzzi. *Doubles from £740, including breakfast (collezione.starhotels.com).*

Understated luxury with a mid-century vibe characterises the Salon at Hôtel Balzac



HÔTEL BALZAC, RELAIS & CHÂTEAUX Paris, France

Off the Champs-Élysées stands one of the most wonderful boutique hotels in the Relais & Châteaux group. The decor is modern but steeped in history; the lobby – with black marble floors, boiserie walls and giant sofas – feels like your own ultra-chic private residence, and the soothing vibe continues into rooms that envelop you in a Chanel-esque dreamscape of creams, camels and sable. It's chic minimalism done incredibly well. The two top-floor suites, with terrace views of the Eiffel Tower, are to die for. Down below, the Spa Ikoi makes you feel like you've been transported to Japan, as do the treatments. Relaxation is further enhanced by time in the gorgeous sauna and plunge pool. *Doubles from £520 (relaischateaux.com).* □