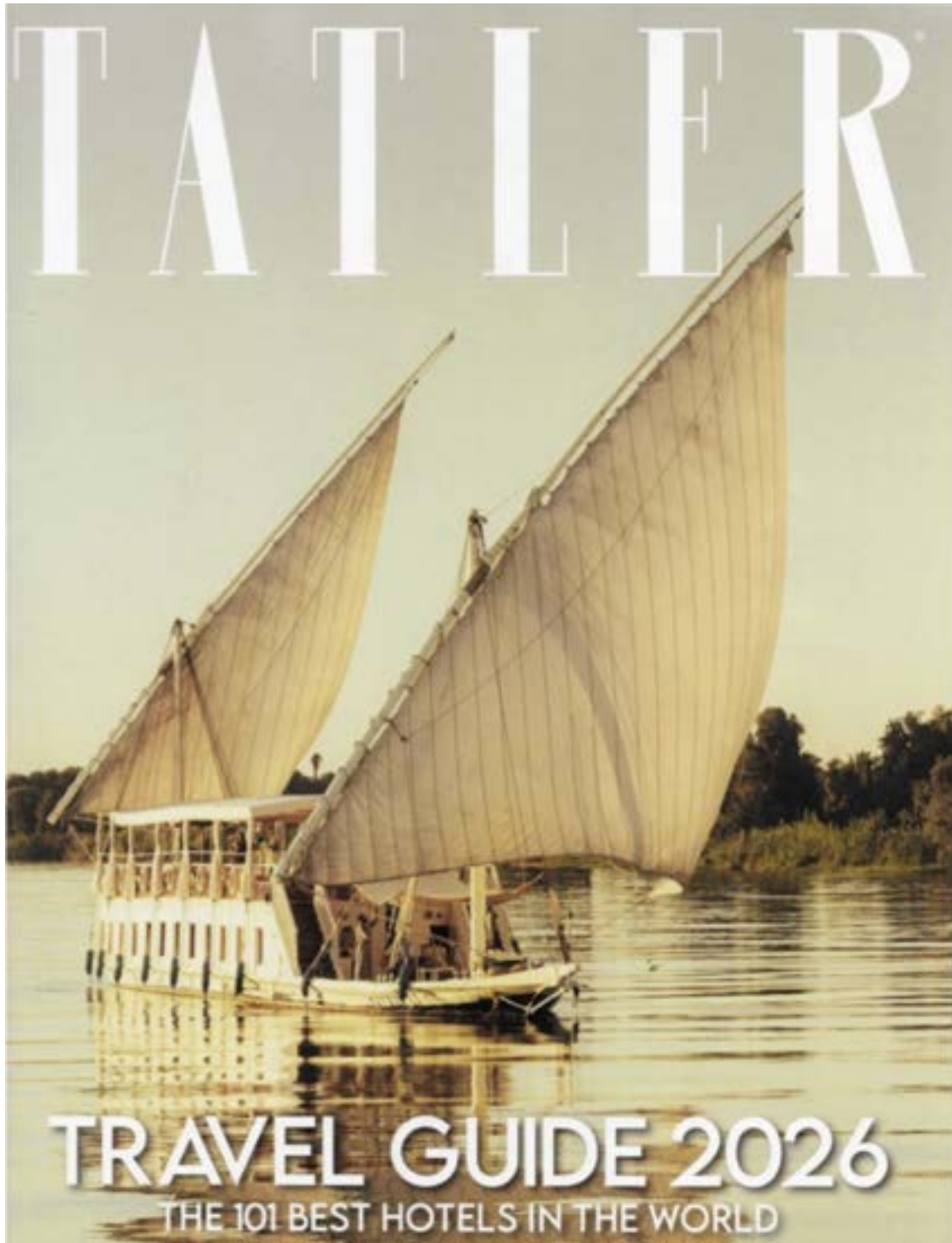


THE MARK

*Tatler 101 Best Hotels in the World print
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TATLER TRAVEL

THE BOLD, THE BEAUTIFUL, THE BRILLIANT: WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE
HAILED AS ONE OF TATLER'S 101 BEST HOTELS IN THE WORLD?

TATLER
THE 101 BEST
HOTELS IN THE
WORLD

PUT IT ON ICE!

Nothing will put you in a more festive, feel-good mood than Christmas shopping on Avenue Montaigne. For what could possibly outshine a new pear-shaped diamond solitaire? (A new Louis Vuitton trunk? A Harry Winston hairloom?) But first, you'll need a base from which to mount your campaign, and when Paris begins to twinkle, there's no place more enchanting than the Hôtel Plaza Athénée, resplendent with its signature red awnings. The courtyard then transforms into a yule-tide dream – a private ice rink framed by fairy lights, shimmering trees and the glow of chandeliers – and in the dark days around the equinox, the winter chalet returns, offering an urban après-ski fantasy until the end of January. Here, guests sit at one long, candlelit table to dine on raclette, charcuterie and Alpine comfort food before slipping on their skates for a twirl beneath the stars. By day, children glide over this frozen arena; by night, it's the centre of the city's most glittering playground. With Dom Pérignon on ice and carols in the air, Christmas at the Plaza Athénée is Paris at its most magical. Elegant, joyful and entirely unforgettable.

TOUCH OF GLACE

Get your skates on: Christmas is the most magical time to visit the Hôtel Plaza Athénée

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TATLER
AWARD-WINNER
2026

Talk of THE TOWN

Book in for a capital stay in these chic urban cyries and live the life of a privileged insider

THE MARK HOTEL, New York, USA
Behold legendary designer Jacques Grange's version of a fairytale of New York. Everything here is bigger and better; from the 10,000-square-foot penthouse with its own ice rink to your welcome from the fabled doormen, who whisk you across the black-and-white floor of the lobby with the heady tuberosc scent of Frédéric Mallé's Carnal Flower in the air. Nothing here is too much trouble. If you need to recalibrate after a flight, there are spa therapists on hand and blow-dries at the Frédéric Féldai salon. Meanwhile, the creamy boudoirs' marshmallow-soft beds are made for lazing. (A surprising highlight of your stay may well be the room service's special cheeseburger and fries, served on a silver platter.) But do head downstairs for cocktails and dinner – the martinis served with salmon sashimi and black truffle pizzas at **The Mark Restaurant**. By Jean-Georges are sensational – or in summer to the Clam Bar, a new 'seafood shack' concept (where Jean-Georges Vongerichten has collaborated with Caviar Kaspia to produce such epicurean masterpieces as platters of oysters with lobster tails). If you want to continue the marine theme, the hotel has its own sailing boat: two-hour round trips start from Tribeca. **The Mark** makes the whole NYC experience exquisite – and so much fun. Double from £915 (themarkhotel.com).

In service, the mark of The Mark Hotel's excellence is a signature to rival



CAPELLA HANOI, Hanoi, Vietnam
Occupying a corner swathe of a leafy boulevard in Hanoi's old quarter, the Capella is a melange of no-expense-spared interiors with super-slick personal service. Despite the fairly new build, designer Bill Bensley has created a buzzing poem to the designers and composers of the city's French-colonial opera house. Guests are confronted with an eclectic universe stuffed with art and chandeliers, not to mention a collection of theatrical costumes from the 1920s and '30s in the Backstage restaurant. Upstairs, there's caviar and oysters in the Hudson Room; downstairs, a Japanese jewel-box that serves an exemplary tempura menu. And behind closed doors? The rich detailing continues in the rooms – deco-style concoctions of swirling carpets and ornate lanterns. It's hard to leave the Madama Butterfly rooftop suite, so enjoy mom service – horizontally on the statement oriental four-poster. The jazzy speakeasy Track 61 is a must for whiskey sours. If recovery is required, head to the Auliga Spa, a lacquer-chest of turquoise and black, adorned with hand-painted peonies and nightingales. *Original Travel* (originaltravel.co.uk) offers a nine-day Vietnam itinerary with seven nights at Capella Hanoi, from £3,000, including flights and transfers.

The Blue, such as in the Capella Hanoi, puts visitors in a delicious frame of mind

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