

September 2011



MONDRIAN SOHO
Crosby Street, Manhattan

Should Alice venture onto the streets of New York, she would find a new Wonderland in SoHo's Mondrian hotel. From the moment you pass through its lush topiary facade, it offers a romantic escape in the heart of the city. With the interior designed by Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz and inspired by Jean Cocteau's *La Belle et la Bête*, the white, powder-blue and wood palette evokes a whimsical fantasy world. Dramatic mirrors and translucent doors – a nod to the ubiquitous French tale – are full-on Parisian chic. On the ground floor, Imperial No Nine, chef Sam Talbot's seafood restaurant, complements Noriega-Ortiz's dreamy fairy tale with its chandeliers and enchanting garden space featuring Beth Lipman sculptures. **Double rooms from £308 per night (mondriansoho.com).**



THIS PICTURE Crystal chandeliers and foliage bring enchantment to Imperial No Nine's garden space. LEFT Decorative touches frame the Downtown skyline.

We heart New York

Three hotels that are as stylish and diverse as the Big Apple itself

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September is the smart time of year to visit New York City – the summer swelter is over and the climate is near-perfect for relaxed meandering, or racing through a cultural agenda. Hot tickets this season include the first major retrospective of Willem de Kooning at MoMA, Picasso's Drawings at The Frick and The Generational at the New Museum, featuring works by 35 international artists born since the Seventies. Great,

hearty cooking is also having a moment in the city – book The Dutch, The John Dory Oyster Bar or The Breslin for refuelling. Whether you're a first-timer or old hand, Manhattan will always reveal a fresh experience. The same is true of its hotels, with a mini rush of new places to stay. Our pick reveals the mix of styles on offer – romantic fantasy, Art Deco meets op art, and chic, understated elegance. That's the New York state of mind for you.

THIS PICTURE Jacques Grange's distinctive Thirties style is apparent in The Mark's lobby. BELOW The hotel's fabulous Art Deco exterior.



THE MARK
Madison Avenue, Manhattan

The Art Deco exterior has long been an elegant landmark for well-heeled Upper East Siders, but this Madison Avenue grande dame is hip all over again following a vibrant redesign by Jacques Grange. This modern master of French style (Yves Saint Laurent was a devotee) has bestowed his signature geometrics and Thirties shapes on the interiors. Rooms combine timeless luxe – Livingete loved the black and white marble floors and Karl Lagerfeld artwork – with hi-tech features such as flatscreen TVs in the Lefroy Brooks bathrooms. The location is spot-on for museum-hopping (the Metropolitan and Guggenheim are nearby) and high-fashion gazing. A stay fit for a (Park Avenue) princess. **Doubles from £633 per night** (themarkhotel.com). >