

The Lierve

THE PIERRE, (WWW.TAJHOTELS.COM/PIERRE) located at Fifth Avenue overlooking Central Park, is the U.S. flagship for Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces. The hotel reopened in 2009 following a meticulous \$100-million renovation to create new guestrooms and banquet spaces. The first floor public areas were reconfigured to accommodate a new restaurant, Le Caprice, as well as Two E bar/lounge. Upon reopening, The Pierre was awarded the prestigious AAA Five Diamond Award.

The hotel first opened in 1930 and maintains its classic ambiance and original grandeur. The property offers 189 guestrooms, including 49 suites, 11 of which are the hotel's premier Grand Suites. Two of the hotel's Grand Suites also offer stunning views from landscaped terraces suitable for entertaining.

The Pierre's guestrooms and suites have been transformed to feature a warm, inviting residential-style decor with a feeling of quiet refinement. Richly textured Indian silks and brocade fabrics adorn upholstery, pillows, draperies, and bed throws. A significant portion of the renovation focused on recreating all guest bathrooms and introducing state-of-the-art technology. New marble-clad guest bathrooms feature a glasswalled shower with oversized showerhead and steam-free makeup, shaving, and wall mirrors.

Guests appreciate a multilingual and highly knowledgeable concierge service. The hotel offers a fully equipped 24-hour business center for those eager to stay in touch while away from the office. The Pierre also offers a selection of meeting rooms and ballrooms. A 24-hour fitness center provides cardio machines, a weightlifting area, and personal training services upon request.

Le Caprice, The Pierre's new restaurant, is a London classic captivating New Yorkers with its signature dishes like the Thai Baked Sea Bass and Crispy Duck and Watercress Salad. Martin Brudniski's art deco design appeases the most discerning guests with its contemporary black and white decor, David Bailey photographs, and long sleek bar. The restaurant sits among Richard Caring's exclusive dining establishments including The Ivy, Annabel's, Daphne's, and Wentworth Golf Club.

The acclaimed Two E bar/lounge, named for its location at 2 East 61st Street, is a dynamic space that serves hotel guests and neighborhood patrons alike. The Alexandra Champalimaud designed space features a striking art deco copper bar as its centerpiece, which artfully balances the old world detailing on the classic columns and ceiling. The lounge, which offers light fare, a coffee bar, and an elaborate afternoon tea, transforms into a stylish bar that serves up modern cocktails, a relaxed intimate atmosphere, and unforgettable dance parties by night.

The Pierre is managed by Heiko Kuenstle and is currently operated by Mumbai-based Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces (www.tajhotels.com). Established in 1903 and recognized as one of Asia's largest and finest hospitality chains, it is owned by the Tata Group and consists of more than 60 properties in regions like the Maldives, the Middle East, and Africa. ●



Clockwise from top left: Bar at Le Caprice; General Manager Heiko Kuenstle; Exterior view of The Pierre; Two E bar/lounge; Tata Suite living room; Getty Suite living room