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## Experience Luxury at Royal Horseguards Hotel

In the very heart of London, between Thames River and the seat of the British government, the historic Royal Horseguards Hotel is one of the latest additions to Luxury Hotels Group's growing portfolio – its second London hotel to join the group in as many months.

History oozes from every stone of this Thames side property – one of the closest hotels to the city's iconic Houses of Parliament, with a suitably imposing edifice. The setting couldn't be better; right next to the river, with a secluded terrace for afternoon tea and al fresco dining, there's a sense of space here that's rare for such a central location.

Thanks to a painstaking £30 million restoration a few years ago, the hotel brings contemporary comfort and a storied history together beautifully, and there's an air of classic elegance to the interiors that's absolutely right for the building. Cocktails in Equus Bar are named after erstwhile esteemed guests, and there are clues everywhere to the building's previous incarnation as the First World War headquarters of the British Secret Service.

Staying at the Royal Horseguards gives you a unique glimpse into London's history. Behind the polished marble of the building's refurbished Victorian elegance, there's a secret past waiting to be uncovered. On the wall outside, a shiny blue plaque commemorates Sir Mansfield Cumming, or 'C' as he was known – the Chief of the Secret Intelligence

Service who worked here from 1911 to 1921. Ian Fleming's character M in the James Bond films is thought to have been inspired by Sir Mansfield's pseudonym.

The hotel's award-winning restaurant, One Twenty One Two, also has an interesting story, its name recalling neighbouring Scotland Yard's world-famous telephone number. Dining here is an arresting experience, with fresh, locally sourced ingredients that change with the seasons delighting every palate. The experience is enhanced by an extensive wine list, carefully selected to complement the menu's diverse dishes.

There's a brunch menu with unlimited Prosecco every Saturday, which can also be taken al fresco on the terrace, and fittingly for a hotel of such pedigree, the timeless tradition of Sunday roast is taken very seriously here, with options such as Roast Rib of Casterbridge Beef, Poached Halibut and seared Scallop or vegetarian Butternut Squash, Pea and Somerset Brie risotto, complete with a glass of sparkling wine on arrival, tea, coffee and petit fours.

It all feels quintessentially English, especially the picnic on the terrace,

an inspired touch that brings the country to the city with gingham tablecloths, wicker hampers and private river views.

London's most memorable sights are on the doorstep, and some of the best rooms at the Royal Horseguards also have Instagram-friendly views across the river to the London Eye. High ceilings and sumptuous furnishings combine with every modern comfort to make every room a quiet, spacious retreat. Each has a fully equipped vanity set, an iPod docking station with Bose surround sound, and Egyptian cotton bed linen. Wireless broadband internet access is complimentary

throughout, and every room has plasma-screen TVs in both bedroom and bathroom.

The hotel's three individually designed King Suites are sensational – The Tower has 270-degree views from Big Ben to Canary Wharf, The Horseguards indulges with a chromotherapy spa bath and the Waterloo has a lavish roll-top bath. All are large enough to accommodate up to 6 guests for exclusive meetings or impromptu social gatherings.

Defining regal luxury, with an unparalleled London location, it's no surprise the Royal Horseguards was commended in the prestigious Condé Nast Traveler's Top 35 Hotels in the British Isles. Luxury Hotels Group seeks out the world's most individual independent hotels for its collection – and in London, nowhere stays individual quite like the Royal Horseguards.

