

Hotel Giraffe Brings Style and Grace of '20s and '30s to Park Avenue South

Retro-Glamorous Penthouse with 26-Foot High Vaulted Ceiling, Baby Grand Piano, Six-Foot High Wood-Burning Fireplace Set in a Glass Wall, and a Separate Boudoir

The 12-story, 73-room luxury boutique **Hotel Giraffe** resides serenely on Park Avenue South at 26th Street. President of HKHotels, Henry Kallan - creator of the jewel-like Casablanca, co-owner of Hotel Elysée with the fashionable Monkey Bar, and creator of the Library Hotel - inspired architect Stephen Jacobs and his wife, interior designer Andi Pepper, to produce a haven of minimalist elegance. The result is **Hotel Giraffe**, a sophisticated world of style and grace inspired by the subtle colors and lavish textures of the European Moderne Period of the '20s and '30s, "a time of comfort, luxury, sleek lines and an uncluttered look," says Kallan.

The hotel's retro-elegance begins in the lobby. Via the entrance off Park Avenue South and 26th Street, guests step into an intimate yet soaring space with a 12-foot high ceiling and grand floor-to-ceiling windows with sheer silver curtains. At night, votive candles softly light each bay. Café tables and clusters of sofas and chairs create conversational seating in this simple but fashionable room. Each morning, complimentary Continental, European-style breakfast is served by a young and gracious staff. Mondays through Saturdays from 5 to 8 PM, complimentary wine and cheese are offered to guests as a pianist plays songs from the era, weeknights from 6 to 9PM, on the lobby's centerpiece - a baby grand piano. Complimentary newspapers, books and magazines are available at all times.

Guestrooms, only seven to a floor, provide guests with the same sophisticated European Moderne ambiance. They boast 10-foot ceilings, antique-rose velveteen upholstered chairs and ottomans, black and white original photographs from the '20s and '30s and elegant 8-foot tall mahogany doors. The bath doors feature beveled semi-opaque glass panels; the closet doors have 8' tall mirrors. In 51 rooms, French doors with merlot-red sheers lead to European balconies. Chic and contemporary linens, chocolate leather headboards and pearlized platinum wall coverings give boudoirs a touch of glamour. Remote electronic blackout shades provide uninterrupted sleep. Brushed steel light

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fixtures bring a soft glow to curved anigre wood veneer armoires and desks with polished granite countertops. Stylish baths feature limestone floors, terra cotta-colored tiles, and coffered ceilings. All suites are furnished with pull-out sofa beds and high 28-inch coffee tables for casual in-room dining. A suite may also be combined with a deluxe room to create a two-bedroom suite. Double rooms are ideal for corporate sharing, as they feature two separate 8-foot granite desktop surfaces.

All guestrooms and suites feature: 40-inch LCD Flat Panel TVs, DVD players, stereo systems, terrycloth robes, high-speed wireless internet access, dual-line speaker phones with voicemail, cordless phones, mini bars, Swedish *Natura* bath products, massage as well as standard showerheads, hair dryers, lighted make-up mirrors, safes, and iron and ironing boards.

Hotel Giraffe's retro-glamorous, 1,300-square foot 12th floor **Penthouse** features a grand 26-foot high cathedral ceiling, a dramatic six-foot high limestone wood-burning fireplace set in an all-glass wall, and 250 degree panoramic views of Park Avenue South and the City. There is also a built-in bar, a baby grand piano, and a 150-square foot rooftop balcony terrace. A separate boudoir may be combined with the **Piano Suite** to create a truly magnificent private event space. The 700-square foot **Roof Garden** is open to the public for cocktails in the evening, weather permitting, and may be reserved along with the Piano Suite for weddings, corporate meetings, and corporate and social events, accommodating up to 100 guests.

Savor Italian-Inspired flavors and flare at **Bread & Tulips**, a new 70-seat restaurant, located at the Hotel Giraffe. Owner Riccardo Dardha and executive chef Benjamin Lambert offer a contemporary menu that combines the flavors and culinary sensibilities of Dardha's Italian heritage, ingredients sourced locally in New York State, and Lambert's soulful cooking style. General manager Chris Hessney, formerly of Morimoto NYC and The Standard Grill, oversees front-of-house operations.

"**Bread & Tulips** stems from our concept of modern hospitality," says Riccardo. "For me, the name is symbolic of the pairing of a successful restaurant's two main elements. At the most basic level, we aim to provide guests with a satisfying meal, symbolized by the bread, and to do so in a warm, inviting atmosphere, represented by tulips."

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Benjamin Lambert studied at the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, before working in esteemed kitchens such as Union Pacific, 71 Clinton Fresh Foods, Picholine, Le Cirque 2000 and Town. From New York, Lambert moved to Washington D.C., where he spent three years as chef de cuisine at Restaurant Nora, America's first organic certified restaurant. During this tenure, Lambert became fascinated with sustainable ingredients, a knowledge he further developed in his next role as executive chef at Crabtree's Kittle House in Chappaqua. A foraging, hunting and fishing enthusiast, Lambert is passionate about seasonal produce and responsible sourcing.

In addition to Lambert's menu of inventive, Italian-inspired dishes, **Bread & Tulips** offers a value-orientated, extensive wine list with all of the bottles offered on the menu priced under \$100, and a creative cocktail program.

Along with Bread & Tulips, **The Rooftop Garden at the Hotel Giraffe** is also open for hotel guests and non-guests to enjoy al fresco drinks under the summer sun or the NYC nighttime sky, in a relaxed and informal setting. The airy space provides a respite from the crowds below, and offers spacious outdoor seating and a breezy central atrium, with floor to ceiling windows overlooking Park Avenue and the Flatiron District. A seasonal menu of artisanal cocktails compliments a selection of beers and wines, available by the glass and bottle. The Rooftop Garden is located on the 12th Floor of the Hotel Giraffe on the corner of Park Avenue South and East 26th Street. The Rooftop Garden is open Monday through Saturday, from 4:00 PM to 11:30 PM.

Hotel Giraffe also provides valet parking, a 24-hour concierge desk, business center service, a free DVD/CD library, same-day laundry and dry cleaning, handicapped accessible rooms, and meeting and party planning.

Park Avenue South is emerging as one of the city's most desirable neighborhoods, with stylish establishments serving an energized business community. The neighborhood, also referred to as Rose Hill - an enclave between midtown to the north and the Flatiron District to the south - is already anchored by New York restaurateur Danny Meyer's acclaimed eateries: Eleven Madison Park, Tabla, Union Square Café and Gramercy Tavern.

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Hotel Giraffe room rates range from \$345-\$500; one-bedroom suites from \$425-\$625. Corporate and promotional rates are often available upon request. For reservations, call **Hotel Giraffe** at (212)685-7700 or visit www.hotelgiraffe.com.

To arrange a press visit, or for more information on Henry Kallan or HKHotels which include the Casablanca Hotel, Library Hotel, Hotel Elysée and Hotel Giraffe, please contact Adele Gutman at adele@hkhotels.com or 212-201-1153.

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