



## THE RITZ LONDON MARKS ITS $110^{TH}$ BIRTHDAY IN 2016 WITH A CALENDAR OF BEST OF BRITISH CELEBRATIONS



**December 2015:** 2016 marks the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Ritz London, the iconic landmark conceived by renowned hotelier César Ritz in 1906. The byword for luxury and elegance, style and service, The Ritz has continued to play host to Royalty, aristocracy and the stars of stage and screen throughout its distinguished history, and has deservedly taken its rightful place amongst the great hotels of the world.

To mark this momentous birthday, The Ritz will be celebrating its position at the heart of London society and the bastion of Britishness with a number of exclusive partnerships throughout the year including a tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday year and the British summer social season.

## HIGHCLERE CASTLE

The Ritz anniversary calendar of events will begin on 29th February 2016 with a two-night programme offering a small and exclusive group of hotel guests a private visit to Highclere Castle, the home of the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon and setting of acclaimed British television drama Downton Abbey. Guests will enjoy a three-course lunch with wine in the splendid state dining room at Highclere Castle. After lunch an expert guide will give a private tour of The Egyptian Exhibition, (which explores the fascinating discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun by the 5th Earl of Carnarvon in 1922), followed by a selection of the magnificent state rooms. Guests will also be able to explore the grounds of the Castle. The Carnarvon family have often stayed at The







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Ritz and in fact the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Carnarvon lived at the hotel whenever he stayed in London from 1923 to 1980. Meanwhile, Downton Abbey has developed a close relationship with The Ritz, beginning in the fourth season, when a young footman won a place at the prestigious Ritz Academy to receive training in the hotel's kitchens and, culminating in the finale of series six, where key scenes were filmed in the beautiful Ritz Restaurant.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AT WINDSOR CASTLE

The Ritz enjoys a longstanding relationship with the Royal family; during its early years the hotel enjoyed the patronage of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward VII. In 2002 The Ritz became the first and only hotel to receive a Royal Warrant, awarded by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. In recognition and celebration of this special relationship, The Ritz has created an incomparable package befitting the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations at Royal Windsor Horse Show in May 2016.

The two-night accommodation package includes evening attendance at Her Majesty's official birthday celebrations in the exclusive Waterloo Chamber of the Royal Enclosure, located in the private grounds at Windsor Castle. A member of the Royal family will be in attendance at the events on 12th, 13th and 14th May and Her Majesty The Queen will be present on 15th May. Ritz guests may select their preferred evening of attendance according to their arrival date. After transferring from London to Windsor, the evening will commence with a Black Tie Champagne and Canapé reception followed by a three-course gala dinner, two courses of which will be served before the Celebration with guests returning to the Waterloo Chamber after the Event to enjoy dessert, a selection of cheeses, wine and coffee. This is the only time of the year that visitors are allowed access to the grounds. The 90-minute celebration of The Queen's life, love of horses, dedication to the Commonwealth and international affairs and deep involvement with the Navy, Army and Air Force will feature 900 horses, more than 1,500 participants from around the United Kingdom with a fusion of the latest video projection, LED effects and theatrical lighting.

During *The Season*, guests of The Ritz will be able to enjoy the social season essentials, including Royal Ascot and The Tennis Championships of Wimbledon, with bespoke quintessentially British experiences with which the hotel is intrinsically linked.

THE LEADING HOTELS



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THE RITZ LONDON

ROYAL ASCOT

As part of a three-night residential stay guests will attend the world-famous Ladies Day at Royal Ascot, on 16th

June. An intimate Ritz party will enjoy the exquisite hospitality on board The Rosebery, the beautifully

restored 1966 Routemaster bus that has been redesigned to accommodate a total of 16 guests in the lower level

bar and upper deck dining and viewing gallery. Described by Vanity Fair magazine as "the world's prettiest

party bus" and located in the rarefied Number 1 Car Park guests will also have The Royal Enclosure access. The

day will include a welcome Ritz Rosebery cocktail, three-course gastronomic lunch, afternoon tea, and most

importantly, all day access to the upper deck viewing gallery to watch the racing (and fashions) in supreme

comfort.

THE LAWN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS AT WIMBLEDON

On 5th July 2016, Ritz guests participating in the three-night Wimbledon programme will attend The Ladies

Quarter Finals at one of the world's greatest sporting spectacles, The Lawn Tennis Championships at

Wimbledon. The small Ritz group will enjoy sky-view hospitality in SW19's hallowed grounds, elevated above

the crowds yet close to the action in a spacious balcony and the debenture seats of Centre Court. The day will

include a canapé reception with vintage Champagne, a four-course à la carte lunch menu with fine wines to

match, traditional afternoon tea with English strawberries and cream, served by a private butler, as well as the

tensions and dramas of live world class centre court tennis.

The two-night stay at The Ritz to experience Highclere Castle, the home of Downton Abbey, starts from

£3,990, inclusive of Value Added Tax, based on two people sharing, and is available for guests arriving on 29th

February 2016.

A two-night stay at The Ritz to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday at Windsor Castle starts

from £4,660, inclusive of Value Added Tax, based on two people sharing, and is available for guests arriving on

11th, 12th, 13th or 14th May 2016.

A three-night stay at The Ritz to experience Ladies Day on board The Rosebery and within The Royal

Enclosure at Ascot, starts from £5,710, inclusive of Value Added Tax, based on two people sharing, and is

available for guests arriving on 15th June 2016.

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A three-night night stay at The Ritz for the Ladies Quarter Finals at The Lawn Tennis Championships of Wimbledon, starts from £9,075, inclusive of Value Added Tax, based on two people sharing, and is available for guests arriving  $4^{th}$  July 2016.

For further information or to make a reservation, please telephone our Reservations Team on +44 (0)20 7493 8181 or email <a href="mailto:reservations@theritzlondon.com">reservations@theritzlondon.com</a> or online at <a href="mailto:www.theritzlondon.com">www.theritzlondon.com</a>.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

2016 marks the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Ritz London, the iconic landmark conceived by renowned hotelier César Ritz in 1906. Perfectly located in a landmark position in the heart of London's West End, The Ritz is moments from the finest shopping destinations the Capital has to offer, including the luxury designer brands of Bond Street and Regent Street and the unique and quintessentially British boutiques of Jermyn Street. Throughout its distinguished history, the iconic hotel has been at the heart of London society and continued to play host to Royalty, aristocracy, stars of stage and screen and countless other discerning guests. The first hotel to have received a Royal Warrant from His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, The Ritz has deservedly taken its place amongst the great hotels of the world and is the benchmark by which other hotels are measured. Following refurbishment it is sparklingly renewed though still retains the luxurious Louis XVI style interiors, meticulous service and the exquisite bar and restaurants for which The Ritz name is synonymous.

To request further information or photography of The Ritz London, please email <u>jmcdevitt@theritzlondon.com</u>.

