

# Travel guides and hotel reviews: the Crescent Hotel Beverly Hills & The Distrikt Hotel

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“Beverly Hills, that’s where I want to be.” Sound familiar? Weezer sang it, and we dream it.

And, as any guest of the **Crescent Hotel Beverly Hills** [1] knows, what better way to fantasize about paradise than tucked underneath Libeco-Lagae Belgian linens with one’s head rested on top a fluffy down pillow, and nothing more than waking eyes separating dream from reality.

A vision of stunning Art Deco architecture, the recently renovated boutique hotel – established in 1927 – boasts modern décor detailed in luxury. Trendy as it is, the hotel remains a classic; exuding an air of 1920s Hollywood glamour that seduces guests the moment they glance up at the pressed copper ceiling in the reception.

The 35 custom decorated rooms feature digital prints designed by Oliva Villaluz, while the lobby’s walls are dressed with signed artwork by photographers Robert M. Knight, Bert Stein and Mick Fleetwood, of the eponymous Fleetwood Mac. From the moment guests enter the Crescent Hotel Beverly Hills, they’re struck by a sense of originality, fulfilling the hotel’s mission to be as unique as the city surrounding them.

Proof that bigger is not always better, the Crescent’s simple two floors with their gorgeous and attentive niceties, offer warmth with tailored luxury comforts.

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ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF CRESCENT HOTEL BEVERLY HILLS



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Outside the grandeur of this historic haven, guests will find themselves a mere stroll from **Rodeo Drive**, and as any women can attest, the distance between Etro, YSL or the like, can never be too short. Clocking at five minutes to get back down to the hotel's Brighton Way address, the Crescent's location is a lavish convenience guests will relish.

Shopping is a tiring affair, be sure to plan a stop at one of the many cafes and restaurants lining the route back to the hotel for a relaxing break and a moment to satiate hunger. We suggest the **Chaumont Bakery** (143 S Beverly Dr.), a traditional French Bakery offering up delicious sweets created by pastry chef Nicolas Rancon including a perfect croissant heralded by chef Ludo Lefebvre as his favourite new croissant <sup>[4]</sup> in L.A.

After a day of popping in and out of dressing rooms, find sanction on the Crescent Hotel's terrace. While romantic when enjoyed by candlelight, beneath the palms and perhaps an aptly present crescent moon, the terrace is also a

delightful spot to enjoy brunch. Or, should it be a Thursday evening, linger at the hotel's bar and lounge enjoying delectable drinks and dishes to the jazz musings of keyboardist Kenneth Crouch, whose résumé includes recording with Eric Clapton. Toast your reverie with a Honeybee Cocktail from the bar — ain't life sweet?

Guests will bask in the lulling serenity and cozy opulence of this inviting luxury property. With all the Crescent Hotel has to offer, isn't Beverly Hills, too, where *you* want to be?

## The Distrikt Hotel | New York, NY

New York may never sleep, but you need your beauty rest, and the **Distrikt Hotel** [5] is where we recommend you get it when visiting the city.

With a minimalist decor characterized by dark wood and blue accents, modern simplicity is more than an interior design choice, it's the hotel's signature, stamping guests stay from check-in to check-out.

Quintessentially New York, The Distrikt Hotel's rooms embrace the cool ambience of clean design with cherry coloured woods and black leather details. But, unlike so many of the city's guest accommodations, rooms are spacious, particularly king rooms that soak in sun in the daylight hours.

A stone's throw from the Port Authority and its easy access to subway lines, The Distrikt is the perfect home base for visitors planning to spend the bulk of their trip exploring New York's neighbourhoods. For inspiration, guests can ride the elevator and stop on each floor to peek at the photo collages of each city district, with the Financial District at the bottom of the totem pole and Harlem ranking tops. Keep in mind that as you go up, the vantage point of the spectacular skyline and water views climb to an awing degree.

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Attractions are available by the plenty outside the doors of The Distrikt; walk over to **Times Square** and **Rockefeller Plaza** to check out the tourist scene and have your picture taken with an oversized patriotic mouse, or glimpse the local life with a visit to one of the bars and restaurants in nearby **Hell's Kitchen**.

We highly recommend **Danji** (between 8th Ave & 9th Ave); one of our favourite spots in the city, the restaurant offers modern and traditional Korean food well-deserving of its Michelin Star. Queueing can wander well-past the hour mark during peak times, but wait it out and you will not be disappointed by chef-owner Hooni Kim's offerings including bulgogi beef sliders with spicy pickled cucumber & scallion salsa (modern) and 90-day aged ki mchi stew with pork belly, organic tofu (traditional). Bonus: the house blend soju infused with ginseng here is delicious and priced so a second order comes naturally.

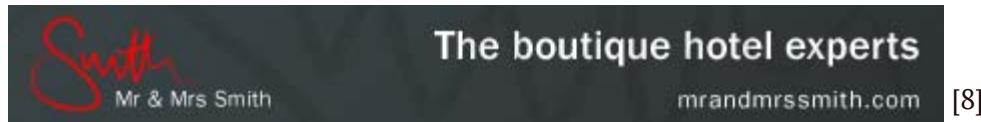
Or should guests want to head back to the hotel for a bite, the Distrikt's **Collage Bistro and Bar** is a no-fuss place to sip on cocktails. The drink list here is inspired by hotspots in NYC, rendering a cab over to Soho or Tribeca unnecessary

when one can get a taste for the neighbourhoods in the comfort of their hotel.

And should you be a foodie, you will be in bliss if you happen to book your stay during one of the Distrik Hotel's food truck visits, which in the past have seen some of the city's most popular food trucks — serving up everything from ice cream sandwiches to dumplings — parked outside to service guests.

Whether visiting the city for business or pleasure, the Distrik Hotel is a resting place that while situated at the core of New York's hustle and bustle, is a peaceful retreat just distanced enough from the rush of the city. A budget boutique hotel if categorized, the Distrik Hotel while "budget" has nothing of the negative connotation the "budget" tag suggests; it is an affordable modern luxury for the sophisticated traveller, pure and simple.

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