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## PLACES WE LOVE HÔTEL LE ST-JAMES, MONTREAL

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*A refined Montreal city hotel with  
a warm welcome*

It's a good sign when the bellman has gotten your taxi door, warmly greeted you, and retrieved your luggage from the trunk in one practiced motion. That's how seamlessly just about everything works at Montreal's Hotel St. James. Phones are promptly answered; shoes are polished as indicated--and outside your door by 6 a.m., as promised. If you sink into a chair in the club-like reading room just off the main entrance, a watchful staffer appears to ask if you'll take tea with your Times. (And afternoon high tea comes complete with a harpist.) No two of the 23 rooms or 38 suites of this converted 18th Century bank building are furnished alike, and each exudes the feel of a private apartment, filled with Italian fine art or other works from owner Lucien Remilliard's extensive, eclectic collection. (Book the 3,500-square-foot Presidential Suite, with the baby grand, if you'd like to host an elegant dinner for 12 around a Second Empire dining-room table.)



Follow a treatment in the pocket-sized, but posh spa with dinner in the hotel's XO Le Restaurant, where Chef Michele Mercuri lends Italian flair to his contemporary cuisine. The hotel's celebrity guests have included the Rolling Stones, who famously lament in song that they "can't get no satisfaction." Surely they weren't referring to the Hotel St. James.

\$350-\$4,650; 355 rue Saint-Jacques;  
514-841-3111, [www.hotellestjames.com](http://www.hotellestjames.com)